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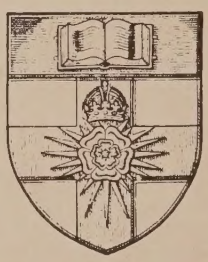

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REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES:

TWELVE VOLUMES.

—(8.)—

METROPOLITAN BRIDGES; PUBLIC-HOUSES.

Session

31 *January* —— 12 *August* 1854.

VOL. XIV.

1854.

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REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

1854.

TWELVE VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

EIGHTH VOLUME.

N.B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Report; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for The House of Commons.*

METROPOLITAN BRIDGES:

370. REPORT from the Select Committee on METROPOLITAN BRIDGES; together with the PROCEEDINGS of the COMMITTEE, MINUTES of EVIDENCE, APPENDIX, and INDEX - - - - - p. 1

PUBLIC-HOUSES:

367. REPORT from the Select Committee on PUBLIC-HOUSES; together with the PROCEEDINGS of the COMMITTEE, MINUTES of EVIDENCE, APPENDIX, and INDEX - - - - - - - 231

METROPOLITAN BRIDGES:

REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 3
PROCEEDINGS - - - - - - - - - - 5
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - 11
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - 157
INDEX - - - - - - - - - - - - 207

PUBLIC-HOUSES:

REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - 233
PROCEEDINGS - - - - - - - - - - 258
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - 265
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - 548
INDEX - - - - - - - - - - - - 557

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

METROPOLITAN BRIDGES;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
14 *July* 1854.

Jovis, 23° die Februarii, 1854.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the State and Condition of the BRIDGES over the THAMES in the METROPOLIS; to report whether they are adequate to the present vastly-increasing traffic; whether it be desirable to construct one or more Bridges over the River, and, if so, at what point or points; whether it would be desirable to provide, out of local funds, the means of throwing open to the Public the present toll-paying Bridges; and, if so, upon what terms such Bridges could be thrown open.

Mercurii, 1° die Martii, 1854.

Committee nominated of,—

Mr. Oliveira.
Sir William Molesworth.
Lord John Manners.
Lord Robert Grosvenor.
Sir James Duke.
Sir Benjamin Hall.
Mr. Wilkinson.
Mr. Blackett.
Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Mr. Alderman Challis.
Mr. Pellatt.
Lord Alfred Hervey.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Locke.
Sir John Shelley.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Veneris, 16° die Junii, 1854.

Ordered, THAT it be an Instruction to the Committee to extend their Inquiry to the Bridges over the Thames within the area subject to the Coal-tax.

Veneris, 14° die Julii, 1854.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to Report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House.

REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. iii
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE - - - - - - - p. v
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - - - p. 1
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 145
INDEX - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 173

3

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the STATE and CONDITION of the BRIDGES over the THAMES, in the METROPOLIS, to report whether they are adequate to the present vastly increasing Traffic; whether it be desirable to construct one or more Bridges over the River; and, if so, at what Point or Points; whether it would be desirable to provide, out of Local Funds, the Means of throwing Open to the Public the present Toll-paying Bridges; and, if so, upon what Terms such Bridges could be thrown Open; and who were instructed to extend their Inquiry to the Bridges over the Thames within the Area subject to the Coal Tax, and who were empowered to report their OBSERVATIONS, together with the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them, to The HOUSE:——HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:

YOUR Committee have examined witnesses with a view to discharging the duty entrusted to them, and have, in the first place, directed their attention to the state and condition of the several Metropolitan Bridges. With respect to these, they have to report that, with two exceptions, namely, Blackfriars and Westminster, the whole of the Metropolitan Bridges are in a satisfactory and durable condition. Southwark, Waterloo, and Vauxhall Bridges, and Charing-cross foot Bridge are toll-bridges in the hands of private companies. As to Blackfriars Bridge, the evidence brought before Your Committee leaves no doubt as to its being in an unsatisfactory state; and the Court of Common Council has approved of a proposal for removing the present structure, and replacing it by a new bridge. Your Committee do not consider it within their province to report on the condition of Westminster Bridge, as a contract for pulling it down and rebuilding it has actually been entered into.

R. L. Jones, 1–15
F. Brand, 2–6.
R. L. Jones, 1–10
S. Bateson, 3–11.

With regard to the adequacy of the present bridges in the Metropolis to accommodate the existing traffic, Your Committee have examined numerous witnesses, whose opinion they consider valuable as connected with the bridges; and they report that the present accommodation is insufficient; that there is every probability of this deficiency being still further felt, and that it is necessary to adopt measures to mitigate the evil. To meet this end, several schemes have been submitted to Your Committee: 1st. It is proposed to open free of toll those bridges which are at present private property. 2dly. To increase the width, and consequently the convenience of some of the existing bridges. 3dly. To enlarge and improve the approaches to them. 4thly. To make the Thames Tunnel available for traffic. 5thly. To construct a tubular iron superway, so as to connect the most important points in the Metropolis; and, lastly, to build additional bridges.

After a careful consideration of the evidence which has been brought before them, Your Committee consider that the expediency of removing the present tolls, on the different bridges between Staines and London Bridge, is established. They find that, by the present system, the traffic is diverted from the direct route; and, in consequence, the open thoroughfares are choked, and rendered at times almost impassable, by the collection of merchandise and passenger traffic, which would disperse and spread itself if there were more channels of escape provided. This inconvenience is especially felt at London Bridge, where

S. Lang, 1, 2.

where not only delay, but even danger is incurred by the concentration of traffic on one spot, owing not only to the ordinary London traffic, but to the additional traffic produced by the neighbouring railway termini. Similar inconvenience is felt at Westminster Bridge; and Your Committee are of opinion, that in both instances it would be materially diminished if the intermediate toll bridges were thrown open to the public. The evidence with respect to the bridges from Vauxhall to Staines establishes the fact that, by the present tolls, not only is the public inconvenienced, local trade impeded, and the accommodation diminished, but that the burden of the tax falls most heavily on those who are least able to bear it.

R. Maclean,
3.

Your Committee are of opinion that, although it may become necessary, owing to the ever-increasing traffic of the Metropolis, to build additional Bridges, it will be better, in the first instance, to ascertain the effect of throwing the present Toll Bridges open to the Public, provided they can be obtained on reasonable terms.

Upon the question as to whether additional Bridges are required, Your Committee have examined Mr. Bennoch, Mr. Tite, Mr. Page, Mr. M'Lean, and other competent witnesses. These witnesses agree in the necessity for providing further means of communication across the River.

The sites proposed by them are—

1st. Tower Hill, below London Bridge.

2dly. St. Paul's.

3dly. Charing Cross.

4thly. Horseferry Road.

Without entering into the comparative merits of these several propositions, Your Committee are of opinion, that the Bridges opposite Charing Cross and St. Paul's will become speedily necessary, especially should the negociation with the proprietors of the toll-paying Bridges prove abortive.

With regard to the best mode of providing for the purchase, and the future maintenance, and increase of the bridge accommodation, Your Committee are decidedly of opinion that a rate to be levied over the whole of the district to be benefited by the proposed alterations is at once the most just and the most simple plan to be adopted.

14 *July* 1854.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Martis, 7° *die Martii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.	Lord Alfred Hervey.
Mr. Pellatt.	Sir William Molesworth.
Mr. Oliveira.	Sir John Shelley.
Mr. Blackett.	Mr. Wilkinson.
Sir Benjamin Hall.	

Mr. OLIVEIRA was called to the Chair.

[Adjourned to Tuesday next, at One o'clock.

Martis, 14° *die Martii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in the Chair.

Mr. Blackett.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Alderman Challis.	Mr. Pellatt.
Mr. Alderman Cubitt.	Mr. Wilkinson.
Lord Alfred Hervey.	Sir John Shelley.
Mr. Jackson.	Sir James Duke.

Samuel Laing, Esq., M.P., and Mr. *R. L. Jones*, examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday next, at One o'clock.

Martis, 21° *die Martii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord ALFRED HERVEY, in the Chair.

Mr. Oliveira.	Sir Benjamin Hall.
Sir James Duke.	Sir John Shelley.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Alderman Challis.	Mr. Pellatt.

Mr. *Tyrrell*, City Remembrancer; Mr. *Ferdinand Brand*, Mr. *James Mulling*, and Mr. *Francis Bennoch*, examined.

[Adjourned.

Martis, 9° *die Martii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in the Chair.

Lord Robert Grosvenor.	Sir John Shelley.
Mr. Pellatt.	Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Lord Alfred Hervey.	Mr. Alderman Challis.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Mr. Locke.

Mr. *James Walker*, Mr. *John Robinson Maclean*, Mr. *Samuel Bateson*, and Mr. *Thomas Page*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at One o'clock.

Martis, 16° *die Maii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in the Chair.

Mr. Wilkinson.	Mr. Alderman Challis.
Sir John Shelley.	Mr. Blackett.
Mr. Jackson.	Mr. Locke.
Mr. Pellatt.	

Mr. *Robert Few*, Mr. Alderman *Salomons*, Mr. *Price Richard Baly*, Mr. *Jeremiah Evans*, and Mr. *Isambard H. Brunel*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at One o'clock.

Martis, 23° *die Maii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in the Chair.

Sir James Duke.	Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Mr. Alderman Challis.	Mr. Pellatt.
Sir John Shelley.	Mr. Locke.
Mr. Jackson.	Mr. Wilkinson.
Sir Benjamin Hall.	

Mr. *John Plews*, Mr. *George Powell*, Mr. *George Rennie*, Mr. *George Walker*, Mr. *James Leith*, and Mr. *John Pym*, examined.

[Adjourned.

Jovis, 15° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in the Chair.

Sir James Duke.	Mr. Locke.
Lord Alfred Hervey.	Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Sir Benjamin Hall.
Mr. Pellatt.	Lord Robert Grosvenor.
Mr. Jackson.	

Room cleared. Motion

Motion made (Sir *B. Hall*), "That the Chairman be instructed to move The House, 'That it be an instruction to the Committee to extend their inquiry to the bridges over the Thames within the area subject to the coal tax.'" Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. *William Tite*, Mr. *Thomas Page*, Mr. *John Williams*, Mr. *Benjamin W. Horne*, and Mr. *Price R. Baley*, examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at One o'clock.

Jovis, 22° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in the Chair.

Lord Alfred Hervey.	Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Lord Robert Grosvenor.
Mr. Jackson.	Mr. Alderman Challis.

Mr. *John Guy*, Mr. *Frederick Gould*, Mr. *George W. Andrews*, Mr. *Evan Hare*, Mr. *Edward Phillips*, Mr. *Thomas Hitchins*, and Mr. *Henry Selfe*, examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at One o'clock.

Jovis, 29° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in the Chair.

Mr. Wilkinson.	Lord Alfred Hervey.
Mr. Alderman Cubitt.	Mr. Jackson.
Lord Robert Grosvenor.	Mr. Pellatt.

Mr. *Thomas Ashley*, Mr. *Frederick Ashley*, Mr. *Edward Wilson*, Mr. *Francis Jackson*, Mr. *Robert Smith*, Major *Charles R. Boileau*, Mr. *Evan Hare*, Mr. *Henry Chase*, Mr. *Charles Edward Gemmet*, Mr. *Edward Tyrrell*, and Mr. *George R. Burnell*, examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at One o'clock.

Jovis, 6° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in the Chair.

Mr. Alderman Cubitt.	Sir John Shelley.
Mr. Blackett.	Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Alderman Challis.	Lord Alfred Hervey.
Mr. Pellatt.	

Mr. *Stephen S. Taylor*, Mr. *Frederick H. Janson*, Mr. *Robert Bealham*, Mr. *Henry H. Mason*, and Rev. *Charles Woodward*, examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at One o'clock

Jovis, 13° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in the Chair.

Sir William Molesworth.	Mr. Wilkinson.
Mr. Jackson.	Lord Robert Grosvenor.
Mr. Pellatt.	Mr. Locke.
Mr. Blackett.	Sir John Shelley.
Lord Alfred Hervey.	

Draft Report proposed by the *Chairman*, read 1° as follows:

"The Select Committee appointed to inquire into the state and condition of the Bridges over the Thames, in the Metropolis, to report whether they are adequate to the present vastly increasing traffic; whether it be desirable to construct one or more Bridges over the River; and if so, at what point or points; whether it would be desirable to provide, out of local funds, the means of throwing open to the public the present toll-paying Bridges; and, if so, upon what terms such Bridges could be thrown open, and who were instructed to extend their inquiry to the Bridges over the Thames, within the area subject to the Coal Tax, and who were empowered to report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence, taken before them to the House: Have considered the matters to them referred, and agreed to the following Report:

"Your Committee have taken evidence upon the several points referred to them, and upon the question of the state and condition of the Bridges over the Thames. They are of opinion that London Bridge, Southwark Bridge, Waterloo Bridge, Charing Cross Bridge, and Vauxhall Bridge, are all in a substantial and durable state; Blackfriars Bridge does not appear to be in a satisfactory condition, but requires considerable repair or rebuilding. Westminster Bridge, being under contract to be pulled down and rebuilt, Your Committee have not thought it within their province to inquire into it.

"All the witnesses concur in thinking, that great inconvenience is felt in the overcrowding of the main thoroughfares of the Metropolis, which is certain to increase, and that additional bridges would mitigate this evil; or by throwing open those bridges which at present pay toll, a considerable benefit would be derived by the public, especially by opening Southwark Bridge, and widening the approach to it on the City or Middlesex side; and by throwing a gallery over the sides of London Bridge for foot passengers, thus adding the present footway to the carriage road.

"Upon the question of whether additional Bridges are required, and if so, at what point or points they should be constructed; Your Committee have examined Mr. Bennoch with reference to a proposed new Bridge, nearly opposite St. Paul's Cathedral; which, if constructed, would permit traffic north and south to cross the River without deviation, and thus prevent many annoying street obstructions, as well as open up a fine view of the Metropolitan Church.

"It has also been stated, that the directors of the Charing Cross Bridge contemplate an alteration of that structure, to render it available for carriage traffic. Mr. Page suggests the construction of a bridge below London Bridge, 'in the line of Tower Hill, along the road adjoining the western warehouses of St. Catherine's Dock,' which Your Committee think worthy of attention.

"As to whether the toll-paying bridges should be thrown open, to provide the means out of local funds, and the terms upon which such bridges could be thrown open; Your Committee have ascertained that in the case of Southwark and Waterloo Bridges, the receipts from toll are very inconsiderable as compared with the cost of those structures;* and upon this head Your Committee beg to refer to their recommendation at the end of this Report.

* *See* Appendix.

"Your Committee made inquiries into the capability of the Thames Tunnel as an auxiliary in facilitating metropolitan traffic; and, according to the opinion of Mr. Brunel and Mr. Page, the outlay of 150,000 *l.* in approaches would accomplish that object.

"Whilst Your Committee has been sitting, petitions from Fulham, Kingston, Hampton, and Staines were referred by Your Honourable House to them, praying an extension of the inquiry to those localities; and by resolution of Your Honourable House the inquiries of Your Committee were extended to the area subject to the Coal Tax. Your Committee have examined witnesses from the localities referred to; and found that the effect of toll upon Bridges in the rural districts is not only unpopular, but injurious to trade, tends to depreciate the value of property, and is felt to be a severe tax upon the poorer classes, whose occupations may compel them to cross the River daily. A very general opinion has been expressed, that the levying of a rate, or the continuance of the Coal Tax, would be far preferable to the charge now made upon certain Bridges.

Your Committee, therefore, recommend that, with a view to some general plan for improving the communications between the two sides of the River Thames, in the counties of Middlesex and Surrey, including the Metropolis, an Act should be introduced during next Session of Parliament, wherein may be embodied all such clauses as may be found necessary to provide for the construction and maintenance of new Bridges, if and where needed; the redemption and support of those now liable to toll; as also to provide the necessary funds, either by way of rate, or by a participation in the Coal Tax, if that tax should be continued; and that in the introduction of such a measure, it is most desirable to have the sanction and support of Her Majesty's Government, as well as the concurrence of the Corporation of London, or that of the Board of Works for the Metropolis, suggested to be formed by the Royal Commissioners in their Report upon the Corporation of the City of London, if that Board should be created, as therein recommended."

Draft Report proposed by Mr. *Jackson*, read 1° as follows:

"The Select Committee appointed to inquire into the state and condition of the Bridges over the Thames, in the Metropolis, to report whether they are adequate to the present vastly

vastly increasing traffic, and whether it is desirable to construct one or more bridges over the river; if so, at what point or points; whether it would be desirable to provide, out of local funds, the means of throwing open to the public the present toll-paying bridges; and, if so, upon what terms such bridges should be thrown open: Have agreed to the following Report:

"Your Committee have examined witnesses with a view to discharging the duty entrusted to them, and have, in the first place, directed their attention to the state and condition of the several metropolitan bridges. With respect to these, they have to report that, with two exceptions, namely, Blackfriars and Westminster, the whole of the metropolitan bridges are in a satisfactory and durable condition. Of those in good repair, Southwark, Waterloo, and Vauxhall Bridges, and Charing-cross Foot Bridge, are spoken of by persons well competent to form an opinion as being in the most substantial state. These, however, are toll-bridges, and in the hands of private companies. London Bridge is reported by Your Committee in a satisfactory condition. As to Blackfriars Bridge, the evidence brought before Your Committee leaves no doubt as to its being insufficiently perfect; and the Court of Common Council has given its approval to a proposal for entirely removing the present structure, and replacing it by a new bridge. Your Committee does not consider it within its province to report on the condition of Westminster Bridge, as a contract for pulling it down and rebuilding it has actually been entered into.

R. L. Jones, 1–15.
F. Brand, 2–6.
R. L. Jones, 1–10.
S. Bateson, 3–11.

"With regard to the adequacy of the present bridges in the Metropolis to accommodate the existing traffic, Your Committee have examined numerous witnesses, whose opinion they consider especially valuable as connected with the bridges; and they report that the present accommodation is altogether insufficient; that there is every probability of this deficiency being still further felt; and that it is imperatively necessary to adopt measures to mitigate the evil. To meet this end, several schemes have been submitted to Your Committee: 1st. It is proposed to open free of toll those bridges which are at present private property. 2dly. To increase the width, and consequently the convenience of several of the existing bridges. 3dly. To enlarge and improve the approaches to them. 4thly. To make the Thames Tunnel available for traffic. 5thly. To construct a tubular iron superway, so as to connect the most important points in the Metropolis; and, lastly, to build additional bridges.

"After a most careful consideration of the evidence which has been brought before them, Your Committee consider that the expediency of removing the present tolls, on the different bridges between Staines and London Bridge, is established beyond the possibility of a doubt. They find that, by the present system, the burden is most unequally divided; the traffic is diverted from the most direct route; and, in consequence, the open thoroughfares are choked, and rendered almost impassable, by the collection of merchandise and passenger traffic, which would disperse and spread itself if there were more channels of escape provided. This inconvenience is especially felt at London Bridge, where not only great delay, but even danger is incurred by the vast concentration of traffic on one spot, owing not only to the ordinary London traffic, but to the enormous additional transit produced by the neighbouring railway termini. Similar inconvenience is caused by the 'cross-traffic' at Westminster Bridge; and Your Committee is decidedly of opinion, that in both instances it would be materially diminished if the intermediate toll bridges were thrown open to the public. The evidence with respect to the supra-metropolitan bridges establishes conclusively that, by the present tolls, not only is the public inconvenienced, local trade impeded, and the accommodation and safety diminished, but it is also found that the burden of the tax falls most heavily on those who are least able to bear it. The local feeling in favour of a change of this nature has been most unequivocally declared, for the witnesses examined by Your Committee testify to the hardships produced by the existing tolls, and are nearly unanimous in their anticipation of the good effect to be produced by distributing the burden of maintaining and increasing the present accommodation.

S. Laing, 1, 2.
J. R. Maclean, 3. 8.
Rev. E. Woodward, 9. 7.
Major Boileau.

"Your Committee is also of opinion that the present and prospective state of the metropolitan traffic renders the building of several new bridges, in addition to the means already recommended, imperatively necessary. With respect to the sites best applicable to this purpose they have examined several well-qualified witnesses, and they recommend to Your Honourable House to adopt the suggestions of Mr. Page, viz., that a bridge should be built below London Bridge; the approach on the Middlesex side to be from Tower Hill, the height of which should be such as not to obstruct the navigation as at present established. The large population east of London Bridge, on both sides of the river, renders this proposition particularly advisable, as the want of accommodation has long been felt, and Your Committee cannot recommend any alteration in the approaches to the Thames Tunnel, as the result of such alteration would not, in their opinion, be adequate to the expense. They further report in favour of the suggestion of Mr. Tite, to build a bridge to be approached from the north by a continuation of Aldersgate-street, at Old Change, in the neighbourhood of St. Paul's, which would not only materially relieve the traffic which at present flows east and west, but would also open out the approaches to, and the view of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Thos. Page, 6. 10.
B. W. Horne, 6. 14.
Walker, Laing, Jones, Leith, Brunel, Tite, 6. 1.

"And Your Committee is also impressed with the necessity for providing another bridge in the immediate neighbourhood of Charing Cross. The evidence in favour of this is conclusive, but with regard to the mode of carrying out the plan they lay before Your Honourable House two suggestions: first, to build an entirely new structure at this point; and,

secondly, to alter the existing Suspension Bridge, so as to admit of carriage as well as passenger traffic. In connexion with this subject, Your Committee wish to urge upon your honourable consideration the necessity for providing a sufficient thoroughfare on the Surrey side for the enlarged traffic which will be there collected by the increased bridge accommodation.

"The evidence which Your Committee have taken with reference to the bridges above Vauxhall satisfies them that an immediate change is called for in the management of them. The tolls on all of them are sources of great annoyance and injury to the public; many of them are insecure and insufficiently managed, and are a serious injury to the value of the adjoining property; and Your Committee have come to the conclusion that it is absolutely requisite that the whole of the bridges, as far as Staines, should be made free, and placed under the care and control of a Trust, and that Parliamentary powers should be granted for that purpose.

"With regard to the best mode of providing for the purchase, and the future maintenance, and increase of the bridge accommodation, Your Committee are decidedly of opinion that a rate to be levied over the whole of the district to be benefited by the proposed alteration is at once the most just and the most simple plan to be adopted. They suggest that this rate should extend over the area of the present Coal Tax, and that it should be based on an equitable adjustment of the owners and occupiers of the property which will be affected beneficially by the improvements which they have recommended. In making this suggestion, Your Committee feel that it is the one which will give the greatest satisfaction to the public, as by this means the taxation will be spread over the largest population, and by this means, too, all will contribute to the advantage in which all participate."

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Draft Report proposed by the Chairman be now read a second time." Amendment proposed to leave out the words "the Chairman," and to insert the words "Mr. Jackson" in lieu thereof. Question, "That the words 'The Chairman' stand part of the Question," put and negatived. Words "Mr. Jackson" inserted accordingly. Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Draft Report, proposed by Mr. Jackson, read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Several Amendments made.

Amendment proposed (Lord *R. Grosvenor*), at the end of the Report, to add the words following: "But they consider the facility of communication throughout the Metropolis to be so far an Imperial concern, as to warrant the giving facilities on the part of Government for raising the necessary funds." Question, "That these words be there added," put. The Committee divided:

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 5.
Sir J. Shelley.	Mr. Locke.
Lord R. Grosvenor.	Mr. Pellatt.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Lord A. Hervey.
	Sir W. Molesworth.
	Mr. Jackson.

Report, as amended, agreed to.

Ordered, To Report.

EXPENSES OF WITNESS.

NAME of WITNESS.	PROFESSION or CONDITION.	By what Member of Committee Motion made for Attendance of the Witness.	Total Number of Days in London.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	Expenses in London.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Mr. Robert Smith -	Solicitor - - -	Chairman - -	1	- 6 -	2 2 -	2 8 -

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

Martis, 14° *die Martii*, 1854.

Samuel Laing, Esq., M.P. - - p. 1
Richard Lambert Jones, Esq. - p. 10

Martis, 21° *die Martii*, 1854.

Edward Tyrrell, Esq. - - - p. 16
Ferdinand Brand, Esq. - - - p. 17
James Bunning, Esq. - - - p. 24
Francis Bennoch, Esq. - - - p. 26

Martis, 9° *die Maii*, 1854.

James Walker, Esq. - - - p. 36
John Robinson M'Clean, Esq. - p. 43
Samuel Bateson, Esq. - - - p. 46
Thomas Page, Esq. - - - p. 47

Martis, 16° *die Maii*, 1854.

Robert Few, Esq. - - - p. 52
Mr. Alderman Salomons - - p. 56
Price Prichard Baly, Esq. - - p. 60
Jeremiah Evans, Esq. - - - p. 63
Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Esq. - p. 65

Martis, 23° *die Maii*, 1854.

Mr. John Plews - - - - p. 70
Mr. George Powell - - - p. 77
George Rennie, Esq. - - - p. 82
Joshua Walker, Esq. - - - p. 82
James Leith, Esq. - - - p. 83
John Pym, Esq. - - - - p. 85

Jovis, 15° *die Junii*, 1854.

William Tite, Esq. - - - p. 87
Thomas Page, Esq. - - - p. 96
John Williams, Esq. - - - p. 99
Benjamin Worthy Horne, Esq. - p. 100
Price Prichard Baly, Esq. - - p. 102

Jovis, 22° *die Junii*, 1854.

Mr. John Guy - - - - p. 102
Frederick Gould, Esq. - - - p. 109
George William Andrews, Esq. - p. 112
Mr. Evan Hare - - - - p. 115
Edward Phillips, Esq. - - - p. 116
Thomas Ritchings, Esq. - - p. 117
Henry Selfe, Esq. - - - p. 118

Jovis, 29° *die Junii*, 1854.

Mr. Thomas Ashby - - - p. 119
Mr. Frederick Ashby - - - p. 122
Edward Wilson, Esq. - - - p. 122
Francis Jackson, Esq. - - - p. 124
Mr. Robert Smith - - - p. 126
Major Charles Lestock Boileau - p. 128
Mr. Evan Hare - - - - p. 131
Mr. Henry Chase - - - p. 132
Mr. Charles Edward Gemmet - p. 134
Edward Tyrrell, Esq. - - - p. 134
George Roundell Burnell, Esq. - p. 135

Jovis, 6° *die Julii*, 1854.

Mr. Stephen Seaward Tayler - p. 138
Mr. Frederick Halsey Janson - p. 139
Mr. Robert Baalham - - - p. 142
Mr. Henry Hewett Mason - - p. 143
Rev. Charles Woodward - - p. 144

13

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 14° *die Martii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Oliveira.	Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Alderman Challis.	Sir James Duke.
Lord Alfred Hervey.	Mr. Blackett.
Mr. Pellatt.	Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Sir John Shelley.	

BENJAMIN OLIVEIRA, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Samuel Laing, Esq., a Member of The House, Examined.

S. *Laing*, Esq. M. P.

14 March 1854.

1. *Chairman.*] YOU are Chairman of the London and Brighton Railway Company?—I am.

2. As Chairman of that Company, I presume you know pretty well the condition in which London Bridge is at present?—Yes; my attention has been called very much to the state of London Bridge.

3. Do you think the bridge is in a solid condition, as regards its permanence?—That is a point upon which I do not feel competent to give any opinion. My attention has been called merely to the insufficiency of the space for the very crowded traffic that has to pass over it.

4. Do you think it is insufficient for the traffic which at present frequents that locality?—There is not the least doubt of it.

5. Does that inconvenience your railway at all with respect to the departure of the trains?—It inconveniences the passengers very much who have to go by the railway, because you cannot rely with any punctuality upon catching a train; you are obliged to allow yourself often half an hour for a distance for which a quarter of an hour would be amply sufficient if the approach to the railway were wider.

6. Are there any other railways about to be opened in that locality which will increase the difficulty?—The opening of the Crystal Palace will very greatly increase the difficulty that is at present experienced upon it, by augmenting the number of passengers coming to the London Bridge terminus. I may mention also that, independently of the Crystal Palace, the traffic to the London Bridge terminus is increasing most rapidly. In the course of about five years, during which I have been connected with the Brighton Railway, the number of passengers has very nearly doubled, and it is going on increasing every day.

7. Will you be kind enough to acquaint the Committee how many railways diverge from the other side of London Bridge?—From that terminus you have the London and Greenwich Railway; the North Kent Railway, to Woolwich, Gravesend, and Chatham; the South Eastern Railway, to Dover and other parts of Kent; the Brighton and South Coast Railway; the London, Croydon, and Epsom Railway; and, in addition to these, you will have the Crystal Palace Railway in the course of a very few months.

8. Have you any suggestions to make with reference to facilitating the traffic over London Bridge?—As far as the railway traffic is concerned, there are several measures which would give it great relief. The more immediate suggestion that has occurred to us has been that of projecting the footways of London

S. Laing, Esq. M. P.

14 March 1854.

Bridge over the waterway by means of brackets or iron girders built into the bridge, which I am told by our engineer would be a very easy, and comparatively inexpensive operation, and that by that means you might get a wider footpath than at present, and throw the whole of the existing footway into the carriage road; that is the first measure that would give very great relief to the railway traffic. The other measure which has been suggested, as even more important for the carriage traffic to the railway, would be carrying out an improvement which has been proposed, by making a new road commencing from the Westminster-road, just on the Surrey side of the bridge, going through Southwark, and coming into the Borough on the Surrey side of London Bridge; that would, of course, relieve London Bridge of a great amount of traffic in carriages and cabs which now passes over it.

9. You mean that the traffic then would be conducted over one of the other bridges, and so approach the London Bridge terminus?—Yes; in that case a great deal of traffic which now crosses London Bridge would cross Westminster Bridge, or possibly Waterloo Bridge, to some little extent, if the proposed new road were connected with the Waterloo-road.

10. Would the alteration of which you have spoken, by projecting footways over the bridge, not interfere with its solidity?—I am told not by the engineer; of course that is an engineering question, and I only speak from the opinions of others; they tell me it would be a very easy operation.

11. Is there any other mode by which the traffic might be facilitated?—I think the traffic of foot passengers to the railway terminus would be somewhat facilitated by the construction of improved steam-boat piers adjoining London Bridge on the Surrey side, and by the construction of an arched tunnel under the bridge, similar to that which exists upon the London side, over Thames-street, by which passengers disembarking from steam-boats on the west side of London Bridge might go through the tunnel, and get up on the other side without having to cross the carriage road.

12. Mr. *Jackson.*] By making an extra arch under the bridge?—Yes; there is an extra arch on the London side of the bridge, and the proposal is to have a similar tunnel on the Surrey side of the bridge, with good steam-boat accommodation; it would relieve the stream of foot passengers to some extent; I think the want of accommodation for foot passengers is one of the most pressing wants just now; the stream of people at particular times of the morning and afternoon pouring from the different railways across London Bridge, both causes very great delay, and causes great danger; I am astonished that so few accidents take place at those times as appear to take place.

13. Do not you think when the West End Railway is opened, which is to communicate with the Crystal Palace, it will give great relief to the traffic to and from the London Bridge terminus?—No; because the whole of the east end of London, the most crowded and populous part of the metropolis, will still naturally go to the London Bridge station as the nearest; whatever traffic to the Crystal Palace we get at the London Bridge station will be in addition to the present traffic, the amount of which is quite enormous; if I just mention the figures of the existing amount of traffic, that will show how enormous it is. The total number of passengers travelling on the Brighton Railway, which in 1848 was only 2,485,778, had increased in 1853 to 4,491,561; that is irrespective of the vast numbers travelling by annual or periodical tickets. I have had a calculation made of the proportion of that number who go across London Bridge, and I find that taking the different lines of railway I have enumerated, the lines of the South Eastern Company, and the lines of the Brighton Company, the total number of passengers crossing London Bridge annually, to and from, may be taken at about nine millions and a half; that would give an average of upwards of 25,000 a day for the whole year; but of course that number is by no means uniformly distributed; and on particular occasions, and during the summer season, you have twice that number very often.

14. And in addition to that, the trains go at certain hours, so that the stream of passengers is not regular, but is much larger at certain hours than it is at others?—Yes, that is the case; the great mass of passengers up to London come in, in the morning, from the hours of eight and nine to eleven, and they go down again in the afternoon. I speak from experience, residing a great part of the year down at Brighton, and being constantly obliged to run it rather closely in catching the trains; and I know the extreme inconvenience and difficulty

15

S. Laing, Esq. M. P.

14 March 1854.

culty of getting across London Bridge. I find by experience that I am obliged to make an invariable rule of never taking a cab, if I am anywhere to the eastward of Temple Bar, because I cannot calculate to a quarter of an hour the time of getting over London Bridge.

15. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You find it more certain to walk?—Much more certain to walk.

16. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you know from your own experience, or from reports made to you as Chairman of the Railway Company, whether many passengers are disappointed in getting to trains by which they desire to go, in consequence of the want of free access over London Bridge?—No doubt about it; passengers are constantly disappointed in that way, and come too late for the trains.

17. Arising from the crowded state of the thoroughfare on that bridge?—Of the bridge and the approaches to it; the bridge, of course, is only one element in the question.

18. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Now that the new street is opened to get to St. Paul's, I suppose the bridge will form the chief obstacle?—Yes; but from Temple Bar up to St. Paul's Churchyard you will always be liable to be blocked up. For the purpose of access to the west of London, the great improvement would be the line of street to which I have referred, from the Westminster-road to London Bridge.

19. Lord *J. Manners.*] Is that the street which was proposed a few years ago on the part of the inhabitants of Southwark?—Yes, that is the same street; I believe there were some funds accumulating for the purpose.

20. Are you aware what the estimated cost of that street was?—I do not know the precise estimate.

21. Nor the amount of the funds which you said were accumulating for the purpose of making it?—No; I think I have heard it said that there was something like 80,000 *l.* available.

22. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Was it not the fact that 80,000 *l.* was to be allowed by the Government out of the coal duties for the purpose, but that the estimated cost of the new street had no reference to that 80,000 *l.*?—Yes; but I believe the estimated cost of the street would depend entirely upon the value of the frontage that would thereby accrue for disposal. I have heard Alderman Humphery, who has interested himself in the matter a great deal, express a very strong opinion that the value of the new frontage that would be created along the line of that street would pay for the whole expense of making it.

23. You have said that during the five years that you have been Chairman of the London and Brighton Railway Company the traffic has been doubled. Did you mean that the traffic on the London and Brighton line itself has been doubled, or did you mean that the number of persons using the station for other lines, as well as the Brighton, had been doubled?—The total number of passengers is about doubled; and I imagine that the increase which has taken place to the Brighton station will be in a rather larger proportion than the increase in the whole number using the London Bridge terminus, because the increase has been larger upon the suburban traffic of the Croydon line than upon the others.

24. So that taking it altogether, the increase in the number of persons using the bridge during the five years that you have been there must have been very great indeed?—I should think it has at least doubled in the course of five years; and I have no doubt that it will be doubled again in the course of the next five years, irrespective of the Crystal Palace traffic.

25. Lord *J. Manners.*] How do you arrive at that calculation of nine millions and a half that cross over the bridge to and from the railway every year?—I arrive at it by taking the number of passengers who are booked in and out from London Bridge by the different lines.

26. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] But they do not all go over London Bridge?—A comparatively small number of them may have come in cabs along the Surrey side.

27. Lord *J. Manners.*] Have you taken the whole, or only a proportion of those who take tickets from London Bridge station?—I have no hesitation in saying, from my knowledge of the railway traffic, that considerably more than four-fifths of them cross London Bridge; nine-tenths I should say at least cross London Bridge.

28. But the figures you have mentioned represent the whole of those who take

S. Laing, Esq. M. P.

14 March 1854.

take tickets from the London Bridge station?—Yes, including those who may have gone away by the Surrey side.

29. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Of the average number of 25,000 passengers daily, how many do you think come in carriages or cabs?—I can only give a guess upon that point without inquiry; but I should think a comparatively small number; a fifth of them perhaps.

30. Then the traffic over the bridge would be very much relieved if those carriages took the new route which you suggest, going from your terminus through Southwark, and over Westminster or Waterloo Bridge?—It would relieve the traffic of carriages over London Bridge to a very great extent.

31. Can you form any idea to what extent it would relieve London Bridge of carriages?—I should think it would take fully two-thirds of the carriages coming from the railway, for this reason, that people coming from the City, from a short distance, for whom London Bridge would be most convenient, would, generally speaking, not come in carriages, but walk. Most of those who took carriages would be those going to the western and north-western districts of London, in which case they would all prefer the new road, crossing either Waterloo or Westminster Bridge.

32. You do not think that Westminster and Blackfriars Bridges are so overcrowded as to prevent their bringing some passengers to and from the proposed new road?—They are not so much crowded as London Bridge.

33. Are you of opinion, that if Waterloo and Queen-street Bridges were thrown open free, a great number of carriages would then come across those bridges to your terminus?—I think Waterloo Bridge would be crossed by a considerable number of carriages if you had the street to which I have referred. The great obstacle to their crossing either Westminster or Waterloo Bridge now, is the impediments which they encounter in the labyrinth of narrow streets about Barclay's brewery and that district, on the Surrey side of the river as you approach London Bridge. With respect to the other bridge to which the question refers, Southwark Bridge, the throwing that open to the public would be of no use for the traffic to the railway unless it was accompanied by the construction of some new street leading from it to the London-bridge Road.

34. Do you happen to know whether the 80,000*l.* which has been mentioned is enough to provide for what is wanted, up to Queen-street Bridge, on the Southwark side?—No; I do not know how far it would go.

35. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] You said that you contemplated an archway on the Surrey side of London Bridge, similar to the dry arch on the Middlesex side of London Bridge; but was not the archway which has been contemplated, a tunnel to be made through the bridge, from the landing of the stairs on the one side to the landing of the stairs on the other side, for foot passengers, so that foot passengers coming by the steam-boats, landing above the bridge, and going up the stairs, might pass through the tunnel under the bridge, and so avoid crossing the road; is not that the proposed archway to which you were alluding?—Yes, that is what I referred to; I think such an archway or tunnel would be a great convenience to enable passengers coming by steamers on the Surrey side to cross the line of traffic.

36. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] But passengers using that tunnel would still have to cross the end of Duke-street?—Yes; but they would avoid having to cross the main line of traffic.

37. Lord *J. Manners.*] Out of what funds is it proposed to make this tunnel?—I am not aware.

38. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Do you happen to know whether the persons who built the bridge have had it under consideration?—I know that a petition has been got up by persons in the neighbourhood, and has been signed by the companies, in favour of a tunnel of that sort.

39. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Have the railway companies ever considered that it would be for their interest to contribute largely to such a thing?—I think the railway companies would feel that if they were once to admit the principle of contributing largely to metropolitan improvements which would facilitate access to the railway, all their funds would be speedily swallowed up. We are already large ratepayers, and as ratepayers we contribute our just proportion to such improvements.

40. *Chairman.*] How would you provide funds for constructing the footways suggested to be projected over the sides of London Bridge?—I am not aware what

what funds are specially at the disposal of the Corporation of London and the Bridge House Committee; but I understand that the Corporation of London and the Bridge Committee have control over the bridge at present, and I should look certainly to their providing the funds. If you are going to adopt any more comprehensive scheme of control over all the bridges and metropolitan improvements, that of course raises the whole question as to the best way of raising the money. It would probably have to be levied to some extent by local rates.

41. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You naturally conclude that the same parties who built the bridge, would provide the necessary funds for making it larger?—As long as the Corporation of London have the control over the bridge, I suppose it is their duty to make it passable for the public.

42. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] By "the control of the bridge," you do not mean that the Corporation can exclude any of the public from coming over it, but you mean, that whatever traffic may be brought to this bridge, there rests a responsibility on the Corporation, or whoever built it, to make it adequate to the traffic?—I fancy the Corporation have large funds applicable to certain purposes, and I should imagine that maintaining the bridge in a proper state of efficiency for the public traffic was one of the objects to which those funds would be applicable.

43. *Chairman.*] Would the alteration which you suggest involve the stoppage of the traffic over London Bridge at all?—I think not; but that is a question of engineering detail which I have never looked very closely into, because having no power to execute anything of the sort, and seeing no immediate probability of it, we have not gone closely into the plans.

44. Mr. *Jackson.*] Looking at the nature of the traffic which flows from the suburban districts of London over the bridges, do you think that it would be an unjust measure to tax the district which is now taxed by the coal duties for the purpose of keeping open, and in repair, and constructing all bridges necessary to a perfect communication between both sides of the Thames?—That of course involves a very large question of policy as to how funds should be raised for these metropolitan improvements. I do not pretend to have considered that subject very closely; I can only give you my individual impression about it. My impression is, certainly, that you must look at London as one great whole, and that you ought to have some large central body, however elected, who should control and superintend all these great improvements—whether roads or bridges, or sewage or drainage, or other great public purposes—and that the funds for those purposes must be levied by rates within the metropolis, and not imposed upon the country; and that probably the adjustment of the rates for particular districts might be made according to some sort of approximate estimate of the extent to which particular districts might be benefited in comparison with the whole.

45. Lord *J. Manners.*] Do you share in the general feeling against the coal duties?—The coal duty is of course a very heavy tax upon the inhabitants of London, and of the area of 20 miles around it, when you get beyond the metropolis itself, into the country.

46. Supposing you had to establish some metropolitan fund, out of which the expenses of these metropolitan improvements may be provided, do you think that the coal duty would be a more objectionable method of taxation for that purpose than any other method that might be adopted?—If carried to the extent of an area of 20 miles, I think it is an unjust and harsh tax upon the inhabitants of the country; but if it is confined within the fair area of the metropolis, I am not then so sure, if the money must be raised, that it is a worse mode of raising it than by a system of direct taxation; but it should be confined to the district benefited.

47. Mr. *Jackson.*] Does your observation of unfairness apply to the coal duties as they exist, or would it apply to a rate levied over the same district?—It applies to the districts within the operation of the coal duties; districts so remote in the country, that they really have no more connexion with the metropolis, or metropolitan improvements, than many places 100 miles off.

48. Considering the enormous amount of consumption which takes place in the metropolis of agricultural produce, produced within a circle of 20 miles round London, and considering the increased facilities of access to London which the parties living within the circle would have by an increased number

S. Laing, Esq. M. P.

14 March 1854.

of bridges, and by better approaches to them, do not you think it is only just and fair that they should join in paying a rate for the purpose of providing that increased accommodation?—Hardly over so large an area; I see no principle, for instance, upon which such a town as Reigate, which is just within the limits of the 20 miles radius, should be taxed for metropolitan improvements, while such a town as Brighton, which is 50 miles distant, should escape untaxed.

49. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Does not it appear to you, as regards the coal-tax, that the pressure is more heavy upon the poorer classes of London than upon those of a higher grade; does not that strike you as being one great objection to the tax on coals?—Yes; no doubt all taxes upon articles of general consumption press more hardly in proportion upon the poorer than upon the richer classes of the community.

50. Mr. *Blackett.*] Do not you think that those coal duties have a particularly bad operation in excluding the cheap kind of small coal from London, which is so largely consumed in the North?—I have no doubt the effect of the tax on coals is exceedingly bad; coals are an article of necessary consumption, and used as a raw material in most descriptions of trade and manufacture, and of course any import duty upon such an article, whether it is coals coming from one part of our own country, or an article like corn, coming in from abroad, the effect is exceedingly bad; for my own part, I should prefer direct taxation to indirect in that case.

51. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do not you believe that London Bridge would be quite sufficient for the traffic over it, supposing the termini of the different railways which you have spoken of had not been brought into the immediat vicinity of London Bridge; would not the bridge have been large enough for the ordinary traffic of merchandise?—It would have been large enough for the ordinary foot-passenger traffic, but it would have been inconvenient probably for the heavy traffic of waggons, and so on, upon it.

52. Considering that this bridge was built at an enormous expense for the benefit of the public, does not it appear to you to be unjust to the parties who have largely contributed to the expense of building this bridge, that in consequence of the termini of the railways coming there, and affording a facility of travelling to all parts of the country, they should be taxed for the purpose of providing accommodation for the increased traffic so brought over the bridge?—No, it does not occur to me that it would be so, because these railways are amongst the greatest instruments of the prosperity of London. If you had no railways London would be a very different place from what it is.

53. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do not passengers coming by railways produce an increase of expenditure in every vicinity over the whole district to which their traffic goes, and thereby cause a benefit to the community, much greater than the injury which they would sustain by the imposition of a rate for the purpose of paying for this accommodation?—I think so.

54. Lord *J. Manners.*] Do you think, for instance, that Spitalfields is greatly improved or benefited by the railway that goes through or over it?—Yes; I should say that that part of London was greatly benefited by the construction of the railways leading to London. There would be great difficulty in showing the connexion in many particular cases; but take, as an example, that article which has been referred to just now, viz., coals. There is no doubt that during this winter, when the prices were so exorbitant, the price of coals in London was materially checked by the possibility of bringing them by railway. That is a benefit in which Spitalfields participates. Again, the artisan of Spitalfields feels the benefit of being able to get down to the country on an excursion to get a little fresh air for his wife and children, with a convenient terminus immediately adjoining one of the bridges.

55. Mr. *Jackson.*] Assuming it to be the fact, as shown by the reports of the various railway companies, that 650,000 tons of coals were brought into London by the different railways for the consumption of the metropolis, what would have been the effect upon the price of coals if that quantity had not come?—I do not think the consumers of coal in London would have got through a portion of last winter without paying 10*s.* or 20*s.* a ton higher than they did.

56. Sir *J. Shelley.*] In order to relieve the enormous traffic over London Bridge, can you recommend to the Committee any particular position for a new bridge, supposing such a thing were to be contemplated, as regards the railways with

with which you are connected?—As regards the railway traffic, I have already pointed out the measures that I think would afford the most effective relief, and I do not think any new bridge would materially relieve the railway traffic, unless it were connected with a new road, giving a very wide approach to London Bridge, on the Surrey side; if there were a wide carriage road along the Surrey side, close by the river, of course a second bridge, somewhat in a line with Southwark Bridge, would relieve it.

57. Mr. *Jackson.*] If the present foot-bridge at Hungerford Market were converted into a carriage-bridge, would not it relieve London Bridge from part of the traffic to the South Eastern and the Brighton and other railways connected with that station?—There is Waterloo Bridge in that neighbourhood also; I think that the best approach would be by Westminster and Waterloo Bridges; I think that the bulk of the traffic coming from the West-end to the terminus of the Brighton or South Eastern Railway would take either Westminster or Waterloo Bridge.

58. Would not Charing Cross be a very valuable place to have a bridge to start from?—Yes; but the question depends, not so much upon the position of the bridge itself as upon the approaches to it. At present, nothing can be better as a bridge than Waterloo Bridge; it being perfectly level, and very little crowded.

59. *Chairman.*] If Southwark Bridge were thrown open, would that facilitate the traffic much with regard to the railways?—Not unless it were accompanied by some measure for carrying a wide street on the Surrey side direct to the railway station.

60. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do not you think that, looking at the amount of traffic which converges from Charing Cross, that would be the more desirable part to cross the river at than to travel along a crowded street, like the Strand, to Waterloo Bridge, taking into account the peculiar bend which the river takes there?—Taking into account the peculiar bends which the river takes, I think the bulk of the West-end traffic would always come over Westminster Bridge; the river takes a bend to the north below Westminster Bridge, and if you go across Westminster Bridge you take the cord instead of going round the bow.

61. Considering the enormous amount of population which there is above and to the south-west of Charing Cross, would not the public be better accommodated by having a bridge there than they would be by travelling round to Westminster Bridge?—If you had a good wide approach, and a bridge from Charing Cross, no doubt a considerable amount of traffic would come that way.

62. Assuming that good approaches could be got, would not Charing Cross be the best spot at which to place a bridge for the accommodation of the public generally?—Yes, if you had a good wide approach to it.

63. *Chairman.*] Are you acquainted with the Thames Tunnel?—Very little.

64. Have you at all turned your attention to the question whether the Thames Tunnel might be used as a means for facilitating the traffic, if carriage approaches were made to it at each end?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with it to justify me in expressing any positive opinion; but I think not. From the little I know of it, knowing some parties who reside in Rotherhithe, near the Tunnel, and who have large establishments there, I think the general opinion is rather against the Tunnel being much used in that way.

65. Are there not many heavy goods that go from the docks into the country, that might pass through the Tunnel if it were open for traffic?—They might; but the great difficulty is running your approaches a long way up in order to get an easy slope. I believe in the Tunnel you will have to carry them so far back as to be considerably out of the way from any of the leading thoroughfares along the river.

66. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] With respect to the West-end traffic, I suppose that except what goes by omnibuses, very little of that goes over London Bridge at present, but that almost all the West-end traffic goes the other way, somewhat in the direction of the road which you propose to have made?—Yes, a great proportion of it.

67. Then the line of road which you have proposed to make for the West-end traffic going to the railways, would not very much ease the traffic over London Bridge?—Not very materially; but with respect to the traffic going to the northern parts of London, to the London and North Western and Great Northern stations, it probably would decide them to take the Surrey side if there were a road

S. Laing, Esq. M. P.

14 March 1854.

road over Waterloo Bridge, in preference to the London Bridge route, so that to some extent it would relieve London Bridge, but not to a very great extent.

68. Sir *J. Duke.*] You were asked whether you did not consider the tax upon coal as bearing more hardly upon the poor than upon the rich; have you made any estimate of the quantity of coals which a poor person is supposed to consume in this metropolis in a year?—No; I merely said generally, that a tax which enhances the price of a necessary article like coals is more felt by the poor man than it is by the rich.

69. You have not made any estimate of the quantity of coals which a poor man consumes in a year?—No, I merely speak generally; just as I should say that a tax upon corn or sugar, or tea or coffee, is a tax that presses more hardly upon the poor man than upon the rich.

70. Lord *J. Manners.*] Have you read the evidence which was given a few years ago by some of the parties most largely interested in the consumption of coal before a commission upon the subject of the coal duty in the metropolis; if not, would you be surprised to hear that the opinion expressed by those large consumers of coal was diametrically opposed to what you have expressed; they saying that the coal duty bears far more heavily upon them than it does upon the humbler classes of the metropolis?—That is a question which almost anybody may answer without any peculiar sources of information. It is obvious that a man who is conducting a large manufactory, consuming a large quantity of coal, will have to pay a very large amount of tax; all that I say is, that generally anything that enhances the price of an article of consumption, a first necessary of life, does upon the whole press more heavily than direct taxation upon the poorer classes.

71. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Even as regards the manufacturers, so far as it diminishes the power of a man to employ labour, it must fall heavily upon the poorer classes?—Yes.

72. Mr. *Jackson.*] Is it not evident that if a man is taxed upon the raw material he uses before he begins to employ others, he must be disadvantageously situated; for if you impose a tax of 7½ per cent. upon his raw material, he cannot work to the same advantage as another party that is not so taxed, and consequently the poor will feel the effect of this tax indirectly, by his not being able to employ them to the extent that he otherwise would?—Yes.

73. Mr. *Blackett.*] Is it not the fact that the small coal in the North, which is sold there at such a trifling price per ton, and is capable of being extensively used by the poor, is absolutely excluded from London by the operation of this tax?—The coal duty being a fixed duty of 1 *s.* 2 *d.* a ton, it of course forms a very much heavier per centage upon the coals to which you allude than it does upon the more valuable household coals.

74. Is it not the fact that that coal is quite excluded from London by the operation of this tax?—I am not aware that it is entirely excluded; but the tax operates in the way alluded to, of preventing the establishment of manufactures here in competition with manufactures in other places. They depend much more upon the smithy coal or engine coal, cheap coal, than upon household coal. The tax, which is only 1 *s.* in 20 *s.* or 25 *s.* upon household coal, may be a tax of 10 per cent. upon the smithy coal, which may be one of the principal articles upon which they depend for conducting their manufacture.

75. Mr. *Jackson.*] If the price of slack in Manchester is 4 *s.* a ton, and it cannot be used here in consequence of the duty of 1 *s.* (that being equal to 20 per cent. upon its cost), does it not place the manufacturer in London at a disadvantage?—Yes; that may be easily illustrated in many ways. For instance, as regards making coke for railways, one effect of the tax of 1 *s.* a ton upon small coals, the prime cost of which is about 5 *s.* a ton, is to transfer the establishments for making coke as much as possible beyond the radius of 21 miles round London.

76. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Are you aware that the tax upon coals is mortgaged to its full extent for some years to come, and that, consequently, there is no prospect, till that time has expired, of any funds being raised out of the coal-tax for the purpose of building bridges, or enlarging them?—I am quite aware of the fact that it is mortgaged, and therefore I presume that you must either continue the coal-tax, or find some sufficient substitute for it.

77. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] With respect to the question of local taxation generally, does it occur to you that there is any difference as between the metropolis and other

other towns in the country, inasmuch as every man in the country is interested in the metropolis; whereas the metropolitan inhabitants have not the same interest in any town in the country?—No, I do not admit any distinction in that respect, except as regards public edifices. You may properly erect your palaces and courts of justice, and Parliament houses, out of public money, because they are things in which the whole nation is interested; but local improvements, such as bridges and sewers, and so forth, are, I think, in the same position in London as in other towns.

78. Is it not the fact that persons in the country have more use of London than the people of London have of any places in the country?—I do not admit any distinction in that respect.

79. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Would you not admit a distinction between drainage and other objects of a local nature and the making of a bridge across a great river like the Thames, which is the means of communication between one part of the country and another?—I think a bridge is merely a portion of a street, and I do not see why you should tax the people of the kingdom generally to make a new bridge, any more than you should tax them for the widening of Cannon-street.

80. Sir *J. Shelley.*] I presume the erection of a bridge immediately increases the value of the property on each side of the river near the spot where it is made?—Yes, it would naturally do so.

81. Sir *J. Duke.*] Do you know what the practice is in counties with respect to building bridges. If a bridge is built at one end of the county, do not those who live at the other end of the county have to pay their share of the expense?—It seems to me that the same principle applies to London and the whole kingdom which might apply to Manchester and Lancashire. I do not think that you could tax all Lancashire for the improvement of a street within Manchester, although every Lancashire man might be indirectly interested in the improvement.

82. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you know a single case in which a county has been taxed for town improvements?—No, I am not aware of any.

83. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Have the railway companies ever contemplated a small tax upon each passenger for the purpose of raising a sum to build a bridge, such as a halfpenny apiece?—No; the railway companies already pay to the public a tax of 5 per cent. upon their receipts for each passenger. They are also rated for local purposes, upon a very high scale, in a great many instances. I do not consider that they are called upon to contribute towards local improvements in a higher proportion than according to their local assessments.

84. You have already told us that this large outlay which is required, in order to afford increased accommodation to the traffic, would have been unnecessary but for the bringing of the railway terminus close to London Bridge. Therefore, if the local public are taxed for this purpose, they are taxed to afford facilities for the railway?—I do not concur in that view. I think the railway is one of the great improvements which has grown up with the age, and it has not specially brought any burden into the City. I think you might as well say that if some building speculator built a large block of houses upon the Surrey side, and by so doing increased the population, and increased the traffic over London Bridge, he should pay some special tax towards the construction of a new bridge, beyond his equal share, according to his own rateable property within the district.

85. Do you see anything analogous between bringing 25,000 passengers in a day and building a block of houses?—The principle is just the same. Everybody who sets up a manufactory upon the Surrey side increases the traffic across London Bridge; and I think you might as well put a special tax upon him as upon the railways.

86. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] The bridge is built for the benefit of the public, and the public use the railway?—Yes.

87. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] You were asked whether the London duty upon coal would not be likely to have the effect of prohibiting the slack used at Manchester from being brought into London. Can you state what is the price of slack at Manchester?—Four shillings a ton.

88. Can you state what increase of cost would be put upon the slack if brought from Manchester by railway carriage. How much would that enhance

S. Laing, Esq. M. P.

14 March 1854.

the cost?—It would depend entirely upon the policy of the railway company and the scale of charge which they chose to adopt. If their policy was to carry a very large quantity at a very trifling profit, I suppose they might bring it for 6*s.* or 8*s.* a ton very well.

89. Making it 10*s.* or 12*s.* a ton in London without the duty, whereas at Manchester it is 4*s.* a ton?—Yes; but that is a question which depends entirely upon the policy which the railway company might think proper to adopt. It will depend upon the amount of passenger traffic, and the extent to which the coal traffic might interfere with the more valuable passenger traffic. It is a very complex question, and the only way of solving the question is to see at what price the railway companies do bring it.

90. At any rate there are other causes why Manchester slack is not brought to London besides the London duty?—I think the operation of the London duty upon small coal is simply this: that upon this engine or smithy coal, which can be bought at Newcastle in the North for about 5*s.* a ton, it imposes a tax of 1*s.*

91. But should not you rather reckon the per centage of the London tax upon the price that the coal would otherwise be in London, and not upon the price of the coal at the pit's mouth?—Certainly. I can tell you the extent to which it operates; for my railway company buys those coals very largely indeed. Those coals cost 5*s.* a ton at the pit's mouth, and the price averages about 7*s.* a ton after paying freight and the expenses of bringing them here. So that the City tax is a tax of about one in twelve.

92. Sir *J. Duke.*] When did you get ships at 7*s.* a ton freight?—Not just now; but that would be the average of the last four or five years for the freight, and expenses here. It is a tax of about one in twelve; not quite 10 per cent.; it is from 8 to 9 per cent.

93. It is cheaper to carry coke than to manufacture it in London?—Yes.

94. You must have a particular kind of coal for your coke?—Yes; which coal is of a sort that is very available for engine purposes. A great deal of that coal at 5*s.* a ton is the coal we use in the factories for the purposes of engines. The result is, that upon the coal used for manufacturing purposes the City dues impose a tax of about 8 or 10 per cent.

Richard Lambert Jones, Esq., called in; and Examined.

R. L. Jones, Esq.

95. *Chairman.*] YOU have had a good deal of experience with reference to the bridges of the metropolis?—As respects London Bridge and its approaches, I have a great deal.

96. You were chairman of the committee under whose superintendence London Bridge was built?—Yes; it was built by the Corporation, under my superintendence, as chairman of the committee.

97. Is it, in your opinion, at the present time in a very sound condition?—I never heard the contrary.

98. Are you aware whether it is equal to the traffic at the present day?—I have heard many complaints that it is not.

99. Do you think that by any alteration in the construction, that would not interfere with its solidity, that might be remedied?—That is a question more for an engineer than for me; but whatever the advantage might be as to the traffic, I think the beauty of the bridge would be destroyed by such a measure.

100. You have heard the evidence of the preceding witness?—I have.

101. It would appear that the traffic over London Bridge is increasing so rapidly that some arrangements must be made to meet it. How would you suggest to provide for that increased traffic, if you did not adopt the suggestion of projecting the footways over the sides of the bridge?—The first step I would recommend before any new bridge was built would be to throw those bridges open which are now subject to a toll. I had some conversation with some of the largest proprietors, some years ago, the late Mr. Ward among others, whose family have a very large interest in the Southwark Bridge, and they complained that the proceeds of the toll were then so little; and I advised them to try the experiment of throwing it open for a year, because my opinion was that if it was thrown open for a year it would not only bring more traffic eventually, but it would divert a great deal of traffic from London Bridge.

102. That plan of throwing it open of course would not be desirable to the proprietors,

23

R. L. Jones, Esq.

14 March 1854.

proprietors, however desirable it might be to the public?—I think it would be to the proprietors; because I think that I could prove, from my experience, that where the public have been diverted in the City of London, they have never gone back into the original line.

103. Mr. *Jackson.*] You would preserve the right of closing the bridge and reimposing the toll, but you would coax the public there by giving them the advantage of the bridge toll free for a year, and then after that you would exact a toll?—Yes, a small toll.

104. If you were a proprietor you would think that step advantageous?—I should.

105. Lord *J. Manners.*] How would the public reap any benefit from that?—They would have the bridge toll free for a year, and after that a lighter toll than they have at present.

106. Mr. *Jackson.*] You think that if the public were once coaxed to take that course, by the bridge being thrown open for 12 months, the increase of traffic would be such, that where a penny toll is now exacted, a halfpenny toll would suffice in future, and that the public would not be diverted by the small toll, and in that way both the public and the proprietors would be benefited?—I think so, for this reason, that the traffic is often so blocked up in the Borough, that they would be willing to pay a small toll to avoid that.

107. *Chairman.*] Throwing open Southwark Bridge, you think, would at present meet the difficulty?—I do not say to the fullest extent, but I say it would be an experiment worth trying to obtain those two bridges free of toll; because it must be obvious to every one that the great feeding traffic to the railway stations at London Bridge is from the West End of London.

108. You think that the present approaches would be sufficient as regards Southwark Bridge?—I think they would. There is a great improvement made in Queen-street.

109. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Have you considered the subject of the tunnel upon the Surrey side of London Bridge, which you heard the last witness mention, as one means of giving great facility to the public, viz., a tunnel through one of the arches?—That was a subject that was before the Corporation some years ago, and I gave them my opinion that, in the first place, without an Act of Parliament it could not be done, because Parliament had granted the power to make the bridge to the Corporation of London, on the condition that they should give five waterways, one of 152 feet, two of 140 feet, and two of 130 feet. Now that latter waterway of 130 feet would be very much interfered with; it would be almost annihilated if this plan were carried into effect, because the steam-boats would have to lie there before the stairs. It has been matter of public observation, and the Bridge House Estates Committee, I believe, have had it under consideration, but I believe they never sanctioned it. It would be something like stopping a public passage without any cause, and I think they would have no right to do it.

110. Mr. *Jackson.*] Assuming that power were given to make it by Parliamentary authority, do you think that a stage for the purpose of receiving steam-boat passengers, and enabling them to pass through the arch under the bridge, would afford that relief to London Bridge which the last witness has stated?—It would afford a portion of it, but not anything like what is required.

111. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] The last witness stated that the throwing open of Southwark Bridge would not, in his judgment, divert much of the traffic which now passes over London Bridge, unless the approaches were improved; do you agree in that opinion?—As respects the road to the railways it would not, because the road on the Southwark side is so bad that you require a new street from the side of Barclay's brewery to come into Duke-street.

112. *Chairman.*] Is it not very much the case on this side of the river likewise, viz., at the Queen-street approach?—That has been improved, but of course they do not go that way for the railway, for the reason I stated, viz., the difficulty of approaching it on the other side of the river.

113. Mr. *Jackson.*] Putting the railway out of the question, and looking at the general traffic which takes place between the two sides of the river, do you think if Southwark Bridge were open to the public it would relieve London Bridge to any considerable extent?—I have always thought so.

114. *Chairman.*] So as to render a new bridge unnecessary?—I would not say that; the traffic would also be further relieved if Waterloo Bridge were thrown

R. L. Jones, Esq.

14 March 1854.

open, because the chief part of the carriage traffic to the London Bridge terminus is western traffic.

115. Do you think if the four bridges were free for the public there would then be sufficient accommodation for the wants of that portion of the metropolis east of Charing-cross?—I should doubt whether it would be sufficient; it possibly might; but before having a new bridge I would try that experiment.

116. *Chairman.*] Where would you suggest that a new bridge should be built to accommodate the traffic of the eastern part of the metropolis?—There has been one plan laid down through the Old 'Change, but my opinion is rather in favour of a medium between that and the end of Ludgate-hill, by Paul's-chain; I think Paul's-chain would give more relief than Old 'Change would give.

117. That would come into Cannon-street?—It would be beyond New Cannon-street; it would not interfere with New Cannon-street at all.

118. Lord *J. Manners.*] To what point would it be taken on the opposite side of the river?—I think through some glass works.

119. Near what street; would it be near Holland-street?—Farther up than Holland-street.

120. Mr. *Jackson.*] What portion of the metropolis on the Middlesex side would this new street accommodate?—It would relieve the City of London, and afford facility for any portion of the traffic in that direction to go over it; whenever there is a new bridge built, if there ever should be a new bridge built, I should hope a different site would be taken than Blackfriars, because there is nothing to induce the public to go over Blackfriars Bridge, there is such a great acclivity; and the relief which was created in London Bridge could not be created in Blackfriars Bridge, because the approach is in a valley; on the City side, whenever there is a new bridge built in that point, between Bridge-street and the eastward of London, it must be carried into effect, as we have in the case of London Bridge, by an arch over Thames-street.

121. Would not the approach be opposite St. Paul's Cathedral?—I believe it would come opposite the centre of St. Paul's Cathedral.

122. Would not that be an inconvenient place for the public to congregate to get across the river?—There must be large places created. It has been a favourite idea to throw open St. Paul's on the south side.

123. Lord *J. Manners.*] Is not the street very narrow there?—Yes.

124. And rather a steep ascent from the river?—Yes; my own opinion is, that the reason why that line has not been thought of, is because it interfered with the Prerogative Office and the proctors, and all those parties, and it was thought better to avoid doing that; but from what we see in the public papers, we are led to believe that all that is to be removed; and if that be so, that would be thrown open, and there would be such an avenue on the southern side of St. Paul's as has always been desired.

125. *Chairman.*] Is that place identical with Mr. Bennoch's plan?—No; his goes more to the east.

126. Sir *J. Shelley.*] You are well acquainted with the feeling of the inhabitants of the City upon this subject, and you have heard complaints of the insufficiency of London Bridge for the traffic; have those complaints led you to think that the inhabitants of the City would be prepared to have a tax levied upon them for the purpose of building a fresh bridge?—It would all depend upon what sort of a tax it was; if it was the tax which already exists, namely, the coal-tax, I think there would be very little objection to it.

127. But if it were an improvement rate, or a tax levied for the purpose of building a new bridge, do you think the inhabitants of the City would generally approve of such a tax?—I think they would not.

128. You are aware that this Committee is appointed for the purpose of inquiring "whether it would be desirable to provide, out of local funds, the means of throwing open to the public the present toll-paying bridges, and, if so, upon what terms such bridges could be thrown open." Do you think that, generally speaking, the inhabitants of London would like to have a rate levied upon them for the purpose of opening those bridges?—I think there would be a great objection on their part to it.

129. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What was the expense of building London Bridge?—The whole amount that went through my hands was upwards of two millions of money.

130. Mr. *Pellatt.*] From what sources?—Partly the Corporation and partly the coal tax.

131. In making your recommendation that the two bridges, which are now toll bridges, should be thrown open and made free, do you consider that the road which at present exists on the Southwark side would be sufficiently large?—No; it would require a considerable outlay to make it what it ought to be, more especially from Stamford-street.

132. The opening of the bridge would be of little use unless they had good roads on the south side?—It would afford no great accommodation as regards the railway, but as regards the advantage to persons going into Surrey a better road is of no importance, because there are good roads from the bridges towards Surrey.

133. Will you look at the plan before the Committee. (*A Plan being shown to the Witness.*) Is that according to your views?—There is no objection to the lines laid down here; the only point would be the expense.

134. Mr. *Blackett.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that you think that the public of London would prefer keeping the bridges as they are to paying a rate for the purpose of throwing them open?—Certainly.

135. They would rather put up with the inconvenience?—Yes, rather than have their pockets affected.

136. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] But you think they would not object to the continuance of the coal tax for this purpose?—No. With respect to the coal tax, I think there has been a great deal more noise about it than any evil inflicted by it. We obtained the great amount under the Duke of Wellington's administration; then we obtained upwards of 1,000,000 *l.* by one Act. At that time a great deal of evidence was gone into by the Committee to ascertain what the poor man would pay for the tax, and the result of the best information was that the poor do not upon the average consume more than a ton and half in the year. Therefore it was thought by the Committee that there was very little ground to object to the duty of 1 *s.* a ton, though it was hardly fought by the Marquis of Londonderry and Lord Durham, and we sat thirty days in Committee upon that point. I have always been of the opinion that there has been much more noise made about the coal tax than the evil actually deserves. What did Barclay, the great brewer, say before the House of Commons? He said he would willingly pay 6 *d.* a ton more if he could have open streets for the convenience of his trade.

137. Mr. *Blackett.*] Was it not at one time more than 1 *s.* a ton?—Yes; it was formerly 6 *s.* a ton, but 5 *s.* was taken off by the Government, and which formerly went to the Consolidated Fund. The matter was taken off by Lord Goderich's administration, and then it was brought down to 1 *s.* 1 *d.*

138. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Are you aware that the coal-tax has charges upon it which will consume the whole of the tax until the year 1862, or thereabouts?—The importation of coals into London has so increased, that I do not think anybody can calculate what the amount will produce. It has quite deceived all the calculations which have been made.

139. Can you suggest to the Committee any way whereby the funds required for the purpose of these improvements can be raised?—I can only refer to the coal duty.

140. But the coal duty is mortgaged for some years to come?—Yes; but we know that the Government, some years ago, were enabled to raise a very large sum of money prospectively upon the coal duty.

141. *Chairman.*] It might be mortgaged for a period commencing after the expiration of the term for which the coal duty is granted?—Yes.

142. Mr. *Jackson.*] But Parliamentary power would be necessary for that?—Of course.

143. Sir *J. Shelley.*] I understand you to say, that you consider that the inhabitants of the City and of the metropolis generally would not like to have a tax imposed upon them for the purpose of these improvements. Have you any suggestion to make as to any scheme that could be devised, which the public would be likely to approve of, for having these improvements made?—No, I never entered into the consideration of that.

144. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you think that the same parties who now have to pay the tax of a shilling a ton upon coal, would object to pay a penny in the pound for the purpose of having the bridges across the Thames thrown open toll-free, and having good approaches made?—I think they would strongly object.

R. L. Jones, Esq.

14 March 1854.

145. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Do you think that the inhabitants of a radius of 20 miles round the metropolis would like to have any increase of the tax upon coal?—No.

146. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you think that a small rate, to be called a bridge rate, of a penny in the pound would be murmured against, if any person residing within 20 miles of London could have thereby an access to the very centre of it; and do not you think the improvement that property would receive from that access would be a compensation for the small payment which they would have to make?—I do not think the improvement of property in the City of London would be to that extent to justify a rate of a penny in the pound; though I have always been of opinion that as regards new bridges and new churches, wherever they are placed, the property will be improved, and the public get a benefit by it.

147. Would not every person who grows produce of any sort within a certain radius round London feel the benefit of having ready access to the consumers here by improved bridges and approaches, and do you think that he would object to pay a small rate for that purpose, on the same principle on which Mr. Barclay said that he should not object to an additional 6*d.* per ton on the coal for the sake of having improved thoroughfares for his drays?—But there is this difference; the thoroughfares in the neighbourhood of Mr. Barclay's premises are very confined, and his waggons and drays are continually being stopped; but a person living out of London is quite in a different position; he has everything free to him.

148. Is not it the case that persons coming to London from the country are frequently stopped for a quarter of an hour by the crowding of the great thoroughfares?—Some of them.

149. Sir *J. Shelly.*] Would not an individual residing just within that boundary of 20 miles think it very hard if he were made to pay for these improved bridges, while a man living just beyond the boundary was free?—No doubt of it.

150. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Perhaps your opinion is that the area of 20 miles is too large?—I think it is.

151. What would be the proper area, in your opinion?—Of course everybody within the district would object to it; but I should say that 10 or 12 miles would be the outside.

152. Sir *J. Duke.*] Have you considered at all the means of affording relief to the traffic, as suggested by the last witness, by providing footways on the sides of the bridge?—It is a question rather for an architect than for me; but whatever the convenience might be, it would certainly diminish the beauty of the bridge.

153. Mr. *Jackson.*] You think it is a thing to be avoided if possible?—No doubt of it.

154. But you are of opinion that if more bridges are wanted, the present bridges should be thrown open to the public?—I think if the experiment I suggest should not answer, then you ought to revert to a new bridge. But it is not doubtful in my mind whether the approaches on the Southwark side of London Bridge may not be improved to a very great degree.

155. So as to render the building of a new bridge unnecessary?—Possibly.

156. What do you think of a new bridge from Charing-cross, as marked upon the plan before the Committee; suppose the present Suspension Bridge was made into a bridge for carriages, would not that be a great relief to the Strand and to the City?—Certainly it would be a great relief so far as it went.

157. Would not it give greater facility to the public in going to the West End than a bridge opposite St. Paul's Cathedral?—The question would be, whether the expense of creating a new bridge at that point would be worth incurring in order to avoid having to go over Waterloo Bridge.

158. But leaving the expense out of the question altogether, and looking at the convenience of the public, would not that be a more convenient place to have a bridge than any other?—More convenient for parties going westward.

159. It would be a great relief to the traffic coming from the Strand across the river?—It would, certainly.

160. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] But Waterloo Bridge does not need to be relieved?—Only from the toll.

161. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Of course you are aware that there are shareholders of Waterloo

Waterloo Bridge?—Yes. I am, unfortunately, executor to one of the shareholders; the share is worth about 5 *l.*

162. Has it been a profitable concern?—Very unprofitable.

163. Do you think that the inhabitants of the metropolis would like to have a rate levied upon them in order to buy up this unmarketable speculation?—I do not think they would.

164. Mr. *Jackson.*] Not at any price?—I do not think at any price, unless it was a very small one.

165. Then you think that at some price they might be willing to have that done?—It must be the very smallest amount. The very principle of a new tax, no matter how small it is, is always multiplied in effect.

166. Mr. *Pellatt.*] I presume that you would not give them more than 30 years' purchase upon the present tolls?—I do not know.

167. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you think that the proprietors would complain if they received 30 years' purchase upon the present dividends?—I think they ought not to complain. When we began our first negotiations about London Bridge, there was a great obstacle to the improvement in the shape of the London Bridge Waterworks. The secretary of the board told us that they would cost us something like 200,000 *l.*, but very fortunately the New River took the whole of them off our hands, and they did not cost the Corporation or the improvement one halfpenny.

168. *Chairman.*] You would suggest that the two toll-paying bridges should, as an experiment, first of all be thrown open free for one year?—Certainly; but I should like to see the whole of the tolls purchased, and to see them made free.

169. Mr. *Jackson.*] But you would try that as an experiment before you bought those two bridges, or before you built a new one?—Yes, I would.

170. *Chairman.*] Do you know how the proprietors feel upon that subject?—No; there are a great many different interests. There are the original proprietors, and there are the debenture holders. I am executor to an estate in which there is a 500 *l.* share, for which we have never had five farthings.

171. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do those bridges require any considerable expense in being kept up?—I apprehend not.

172. Do you happen to know whether Southwark Bridge is in a very dilapidated condition?—No, I do not know that; I never heard it before; I should doubt it.

173. Mr. *Jackson.*] I suppose you are aware that it was at one time contemplated to take a railway across that bridge, and that a Bill was brought before this House for that purpose?—Yes; I think that is proof of its stability.

174. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Does it appear to you that that road laid down upon the plan before the Committee, forming a straight line of road crossing all the bridge roads, would be necessary, whether any new bridges were made or not?—It would be very desirable, certainly.

175. But you think that the throwing open of those two bridges, toll-free, might render it unnecessary to build a new bridge?—It would add such a new feature that I think no person could calculate the effect of it.

176. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] You consider that any new tax of any kind for the purpose of building a bridge, or opening a bridge, would be generally obnoxious?—Strongly objectionable.

177. Do you think that the continuance of the present coal tax for a few years longer would meet with less objection than the levying of a new rate?—Decidedly; especially if the circle within which the tax was levied was somewhat lessened.

178. Knowing what you know as to the continually increasing amount of the coal tax, are you of opinion that it would be possible to carry out what is required, with regard to new bridges and new streets, by continuing that tax for a not very distant period?—Yes, I think it would. I think the opposition to it would be only of such a character, that if there was a sincere desire on the part of Parliament to carry it into effect that opposition would be got rid of. I speak by experience, for there could not be a stronger opposition to it than there was to the Act of Parliament in 1828 and 1829, by which a million was raised on the security of the coal duties.

179. Mr. *Pellatt.*] How long did it take to collect that one million?—I think it was paid before 1852.

R. L. Jones, Esq.
14 March 1854.

180. Over how many years was it divided?—I think it extended from 1829 till near 1852, or less than that.

181. *Chairman.*] Are you acquainted with the condition of Blackfriars Bridge?—Only by notoriety, and from seeing it. It is in as bad a condition as can be.

182. Is it possible to repair it and make it sound?—I can hardly give an opinion upon that, but I should doubt it, after the repairs that have been made upon it some few years ago. Then it was given out that it would stand for ages, but those ages have been very short.

183. Does not that arise in a great measure from the construction of New London Bridge, which has altered the course of the river?—I think it ought not to arise from that, if it is so, because the calculation was made before London Bridge was built, and before Blackfriars Bridge was repaired. That eminent engineer, the late Mr. Rennie (his evidence was as strong and clear as possible), stated that the river would fall a great deal more and rise a great deal more; so that that calculation ought to have been made at the time that the bridge was repaired.

184. Have you any acquaintance with Vauxhall Bridge?—No, I have not, except that I am a small proprietor.

185. Does that pay a good dividend?—Not so good as it did. There was a great traffic over it to the South Western Railway, and before that was removed it used to pay a good dividend.

186. The throwing that bridge open would not be of any advantage in relieving the City traffic?—No, I do not think it would be of much, if any.

187. Is the traffic very considerable over that bridge?—Not very. It is chiefly local traffic.

188. Sir *J. Duke.*] I understood you to say that you had no other suggestion to make to the Committee, except taking off the tolls from Southwark Bridge and Waterloo Bridge?—Yes, as an experiment, to be tried first before doing anything else.

Martis, 21° *die Martii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Oliveira.	Lord Alfred Hervey.
Sir James Duke.	Sir John Shelley.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Alderman Challis.	Mr. Pellatt.
Sir Benjamin Hall.	

LORD ALFRED HERVEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Edward Tyrrell, Esq., called in; and Examined.

E. Tyrrell, Esq.
21 March 1854.

189. *Chairman.*] HAVE you a return which was asked for by the Committee?—I have a "Return of the Amounts annually received in respect of the Coal Duties since the 31st December 1831, distinguishing the produce of the several Duties of 8 *d.*, 4 *d.* and 1 *d.*, with the respective application thereof," which I beg leave to hand in.—(*The same was delivered in.*)

Vide Appendix, No. 1.

190. Sir *B. Hall.*] The reference to the Committee is to this effect, to inquire and report whether it would be desirable to provide out of local funds the means of throwing open to the public the present toll-paying bridges, or to build new bridges, and if so, upon what terms such bridges could be thrown open; and the Committee are precluded from inquiring or giving an opinion as to whether it would be advisable to pay those expenses out of the public funds. Now, from your knowledge of the metropolis, do you think that any proposal to purchase and throw open the bridges by means of a forced tax upon the inhabitants for that purpose would be received favourably by the inhabitants?—So far

E. Tyrrell, Esq.

21 March 1854.

far as I have been able to ascertain the feeling of the inhabitants, I should say that their feeling would be decidedly adverse to a tax for that purpose.

191. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Or any purpose, I suppose?—I think an improvement tax would be very much objected to, from all that I have heard.

192. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Would it not be an objection, in the eyes of the public generally, that a tax should be levied upon the public for the purpose, as they would think, of buying up the shares of those who had entered into a bad speculation?—I should apprehend that if there was any idea of purchasing the shares of the bridges, it would be done upon an estimate of their present value.

193. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] As the funds of those bridges are known to be in a depressed state, so as to make little or no return for the money expended in building them, would not the public probably feel more indisposed against paying money for purchasing such bridges than for building a new bridge?—I think they would do so; but it would depend a great deal upon the terms upon which it was proposed to buy those bridges.

194. Sir *J. Shelley.*] If an idea got abroad that a tax was to be imposed without the consent of the public, to buy up a bad speculation, would not that of itself, on the first blush of the thing, make it unpopular?—I think it would.

195. *Chairman.*] Do you think that the same objection would exist to a tax for the purpose of building a new bridge?—I think so; I have always found that the idea of a tax for a purpose of that nature very unpopular, and it would be very much more so if it were thrown over a small locality.

196. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Are the Committee to understand you to say that supposing it to be ascertained that there is great want of bridge accommodation, and great inconvenience occasioned by the want of that accommodation, the inhabitants of London generally would, in your opinion, be averse to furnishing by taxation funds adequate to that purpose?—From all the conversation I have had upon that point, my impression is, that they would be unfavourable to such a tax.

197. Sir *J. Shelley.*] They would probably say that the whole population of the country are benefited by the improved circulation, facilities for traffic in London, and that there was in fact only one source out of which it ought to come, namely, the Consolidated Fund?—They would no doubt feel, as the truth actually is, that any great improvement in the metropolis is not only a benefit to the inhabitants of the metropolis, but to all the surrounding districts, to a very great extent.

198. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Did you hear Mr. Laing give his evidence here?—I did.

199. You do not agree with Mr. Laing in his notions upon this subject?—I do not.

Ferdinand Brand, Esq., called in; and Examined.

Ferdinand Brand, Esq.

200. *Chairman.*] WHAT office do you hold in the City?—I am comptroller of the Bridge-house Estates.

201. What is the general nature of the Bridge-house Estates?—They consist of land, houses, wharves, warehouses, and other buildings, which are held by the mayor, and commonalty, and citizens of the City of London, in trust for the maintenance and support of London Bridge. They were derived originally from gifts and grants from the Crown, and gifts from different individuals, and purchases made out of the surplus income arising from those estates, and other portions have been purchased with the produce of property sold at different periods, under the authority of various Acts of Parliament for effecting public improvements and other purposes. There is a portion of the property situated at Stratford, in Essex, which is also liable to the support of two bridges there, called St. Michael's Bridge and Peg's Hole Bridge, and a portion of the roads adjoining.

202. Is the trust upon which the property is held confined to the repair of London Bridge?—The specific trust is confined to the maintenance and support of London Bridge.

203. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Are the funds devoted to those bridges at Stratford, and the funds devoted to the maintenance and support of London Bridge kept quite distinct?—No; the fund derived from the estate at Stratford is part of the fund held for the support of London Bridge; but the estate at Stratford is liable, in the first place, for the repair of those two bridges, and it is applied to London Bridge, subject to a prior trust for the others. The estate at Stratford is a

Ferdinand Brand, Esq.

21 March 1854

portion of the Bridge-house Estates, and liable primarily to the support of those two bridges, and the surplus rents and profits go to the Bridge-house Estate generally.

204. What is the amount of this fund?—The whole rental of the Bridge-house Estates is about 32,000 *l.* a year.

205. *Chairman.*] What charges are there upon those estates?—By the Acts of Parliament passed in relation to the rebuilding of London Bridge, the residue of the rents and profits of the Bridge-house Estates, after payment of the existing charges on and defraying the expenses of managing and improving the estates, and the current charges and expenses of London Bridge, and the repairs thereof, and lighting and watching the same, and all other expenses relating thereto, are charged with the payment of the sums of money raised for the rebuilding of London Bridge, amounting in the whole to the sum of 431,000 *l.* The money was advanced by the Government, and the repayment is secured by annuities, terminating at different periods, amounting together to 21,550 *l.* per annum. Those terminable annuities will begin to expire in the year 1867, and the last of them will expire in 1871.

206. Sir *J. Shelley.*] You spoke of the expenses of "improving the estates;" what is meant by "improving"?—Moneys that are necessary for outlay in the course of the general management of a large estate. There are moneys constantly expended for the making of sewers and roads, and so forth, and the general expenses of managing and improving the estates. There are a great many expenses incurred on a large estate, such as this, in improving it, and making alterations, and things of that nature.

207. *Chairman.*] To what extent are the Bridge-house Estates liable for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge?—An Act of Parliament was passed in the year 1833, the 3d & 4th of William the Fourth, for raising a sum of money for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge. By this Act of Parliament it is directed, that so much of the expense which is incurred in pursuance of the Act of the 7th of George the Third, for the watching, lighting, cleansing, and repairing Blackfriars Bridge, as the fund created by that Act shall be insufficient to satisfy, shall be made up out of the surplus rents and profits of the Bridge-house Estates; that is, the surplus after paying the Government annuities; subject to that, the Bridge-house Estates are made liable to the repayment of the sums of money raised for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge and of the interest upon those moneys. The moneys raised for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge under the powers of that Act of Parliament were 77,400 *l.*, of which sum 73,100 *l.* still remains unpaid, and is a charge upon the Bridge-house Estates, the interest of which amounts to 2,967 *l.* 10 *s.* per annum. I have taken an average of the accounts for the last ten years from the 31st of December 1843 to the 31st of December 1853. I have taken 10 years because the paving of London Bridge and the paving of Blackfriars Bridge both come, upon the average, about every nine or ten years, and, by taking that period, it includes the charge of paving only once. The annual revenue of the Bridge-house Estates, upon the average of the last 10 years, has amounted to about 33,532 *l.* The payments in respect of rents, taxes, and other charges on and the expenses of managing and improving the estates, and the current charges and expenses of London Bridge and the repair thereof, and lighting and watching the same, and all other expenses relating thereto, upon an average of the last 10 years, amount to about 7,196 *l.* per annum. That leaves a surplus of 26,336 *l.*

208. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] That includes all the payments made for the bridges at Stratford?—Yes; what is paid in respect of the bridges at Stratford comes under the 7,196 *l.*; that item gives the whole of the expenses deducted from the produce of the Bridge-house Estates. The amount of the surplus rents and profits applicable to the purposes of London Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge then becomes 26,336 *l.* The annuities payable in respect of the moneys raised for the rebuilding of London Bridge are 21,550 *l.*, leaving a surplus applicable to the purposes of the Act of Parliament relating to Blackfriars Bridge of about 4,786 *l.* The payments made in aid of the fund for lighting, watching, cleansing, and repairing Blackfriars Bridge, upon an average of the last 10 years, amount annually to about 1,632 *l.* The interest upon the money raised for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge amounts to 2,967 *l.* 10 *s.* per annum, making the total of the annual payments in respect of Blackfriars Bridge about 4,599 *l.*

31

Ferdinand Brand, Esq.

21 March 1854.

4,599 *l.* 10 *s.* That leaves a surplus applicable to the repayment of the moneys raised for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge of 186 *l.* 10 *s.* per annum.

209. *Chairman.*] Is the charge of the Blackfriars Bridge loan payable in the shape of interest, or is it paid off by annuities?—It is a loan upon which interest is payable. It is not in the form of annuities, but money raised upon bonds charged with interest in the mean time, but ultimately to be paid off.

210. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Have you any schedule showing the expenses of management and improvement of the Bridge-house Estates?—I have not with me the particulars of the accounts. I have been through the accounts myself, and have made out these averages for the information of the Committee.

211. Mr. *Jackson.*] Can you give the Committee those charges in detail for each year?—Yes.

212. Stating every expense under its own head?—Yes, certainly.

213. Will you be kind enough to do that?—Yes, I will.

214. Will you give us also a statement of the periods when the annuities will expire?—I have stated that the moneys were borrowed at different periods, commencing in 1827. They were annuities for 40 years, and therefore they will begin to fall off in 1867. The last sums were borrowed in 1831, and consequently they will all expire in 1871.

215. Then that debt will be extinguished?—Then that debt will be extinguished.

216. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] In the year 1871 there will be a net income of what amount?—A net income of 26,336 *l.*, charged with the sums of money raised in respect to the repair of Blackfriars Bridge; that is, supposing there are no other sums of money required for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge, which is doubtful at the present moment. Looking at the present position of Blackfriars Bridge, it is very doubtful whether a large expenditure will not be requisite for the repair of that bridge.

217. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Have not the Committee of the Bridge-house Estates had an examination made of Blackfriars Bridge?—Yes.

218. Have you any report upon that, showing the present state of Blackfriars Bridge, and the probable expense of making it perfect where it is imperfect?—Yes; but I thought that the Committee would like perhaps to take the principal bridge first.

219. Is London Bridge in a perfect state?—Certainly.

220. Then as regards London Bridge, 7,000 *l.* a year is as much as it is likely to require?—There is a plan at present under consideration for widening London Bridge. Some allusion was made to that by the Chairman of the Brighton Railway, at the first meeting of the Committee.

221. But the improvement of London Bridge, and the necessity of keeping the bridge up, are quite distinct questions?—Still, whatever may relate to London Bridge is primarily chargeable upon this fund before Blackfriars Bridge has any claim upon it.

222. But it is optional with the Court of Common Council, whether they will enlarge London Bridge or build a new one; but it is no matter of option, if the bridge needs repair to keep it up, whether they will repair it?—Certainly.

223. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you consider that the Bridge-house Estates are so encumbered by the heavy debt incurred in rebuilding London Bridge as to prevent their affording any further funds for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge?—At the present moment I think they are. If the money market was in a different position to what it is at present, it is very probable that arrangements might be made for raising a sum of money enough to pay off the existing charges, if the Government were willing to accept it. Supposing the Government were willing to commute the annuities for a payment in present money, and the state of the money market were favourable to such an operation, then it is probable that a sum of money might be raised sufficient to pay off the Government, which would leave a surplus, after paying the Blackfriars debt due. But in the present state of the money market, I do not think that could be done.

224. More than half the time for which the annuities were granted has passed?—Yes; we are now in 1854; they began in 1827.

225. Therefore, if you consider the sum of 400,000 *l.* to represent the amount of the original debt in 1827, it may be taken at less than 200,000 *l.*; so that you would have a sufficient resource upon which to borrow more?—It would depend upon the rate of interest at which we were able to raise the money.

Ferdinand Brand, Esq.

21 March 1854.

226. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Have you any recent report of any survey made, showing the present condition of Blackfriars Bridge?—Yes; this is a report of Mr. James Walker upon the subject. The bridge has, within the last four years, shown symptoms of sinking. Under this Act of Parliament, to which I before referred, passed in 1833, upwards of 100,000 *l.* was laid out in the repair of Blackfriars Bridge; there was a considerable substantial repair of that bridge. Those works were completed in 1841. In 1850 some symptoms of sinking manifested themselves in one of the piers of Blackfriars Bridge, the fifth pier from the Middlesex side. Messrs. Walker and Burges were employed by the Bridge-house Estate Committee, to whom the care of the bridges is entrusted, to make a survey and examination of that bridge, and report their opinion as to the best mode of repairing it. Surveys were made, and different works from time to time were executed under the direction of Messrs. Walker and Burges. Rubble was thrown in to a considerable extent round the piers, to cure the defect that had arisen; and they did certain other works, such as repairing the piling which had broken away; and other works were carried on.

227. Can you state any resolution that the Bridge-house Committee have come to upon the subject, in consequence of the information derived from Mr. Walker?—Mr. Walker suggests three different plans; the resolution the Common Council came to was, that it would be desirable to rebuild Blackfriars Bridge altogether; that is upon reports made by Sir William Cubitt and Mr. Brunel, both of which I have here for the information of the Committee.

228. Can you hand in the report of Mr. Walker to the Bridge-house Committee?—This is the report from the Bridge-house Committee to the Court of Common Council, presented on the 1st of July 1852. This contains the reports of Messrs. Walker and Burges, and of Sir William Cubitt and Mr. Brunel. This report I will hand in.—(*The same was delivered in*).

229. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] That is the most recent report from Mr. Walker to the Bridge-house Committee?—Yes; there are several minor reports; Mr. Walker makes a report whenever there is any small repair to be done, but this is the most recent report with regard to any large alteration required to be made. The result of that report was a report from the Bridge-house Committee to the Court of Common Council, recommending that Blackfriars Bridge should be taken down, and that a new bridge should be built.

230. What was the resolution of the Court of Common Council?—I have not it here; but it was agreeing with the committee in their report, and referring it back to them to carry into execution.

231. Is it within your knowledge that there is a plan under the consideration of the Bridge-house Committee for widening London Bridge?—There is.

232. In what state of progress is that?—I have a model of it here, if the Committee desire to see it.—(*The Model was produced.*)

233. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is that widening of the bridge obtained by projection of the parapet?—It is an iron projection on the parapet, nine feet six inches on each side.

234. Did you hear Mr. Lambert Jones give his evidence upon this subject?—I did.

235. Do you agree with him?—I thought the Committee would form a better opinion by an inspection of the model, and therefore the model has been produced. Mr. Bunning, the architect, is here, and will be able to give the Committee full information upon the subject.

236. Mr. *Jackson.*] Are you in the habit of publishing yearly or half-yearly the accounts of the Bridge-house Estates?—Yearly.

237. Can you place before the Committee for the last 10 years your yearly expenditure and receipts in the shape in which you keep them in your books, and in which you present them to the Court of Common Council?—Yes, for the last 10 years.

238. You have not them here now?—No; but I have gone through them for the purpose of preparing the statement I have made.

239. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Have you any information to offer to the Committee connected with Southwark Bridge?—There has been a negotiation with the Southwark Bridge Company. The attention of the Corporation was some years ago directed to the question of the necessity or the propriety of throwing open Southwark Bridge; and a communication was made by the Bridge-house Committee to the Directors of the Southwark Bridge Company, with the view of ascertaining whether there was any probability of their being able to accomplish

33

Ferdinand Brand, Esq.

21 March 1854.

plish the purchase of the bridge, so as to be able to throw it open for the benefit of the public. A conference took place between the Directors of the Southwark Bridge Company and the Bridge-house Committee in 1849, at which the Southwark Bridge Company stated that the sum which they should require for the purchase of the bridge was 300,000 *l.* I have before me the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Metropolitan Improvements in 1836, which probably will give the Committee information upon the subject. It contains a Return of the amount of capital raised, and the expenditure, and the amount of the dividends of the Southwark Bridge Company. The Bridge-house Committee of course considered that the amount of income received by the Southwark Bridge Company should form some sort of basis upon which to calculate the amount to be paid for the bridge; and the Directors were asked whether they would be kind enough to state that; but they declined stating any basis, except that they had been offered 300,000 *l.* by the North Kent Railway Company for the purchase of the bridge, when it was proposed to bring that railway into the City over Southwark Bridge, and that the Railway Company had agreed to give them that price for it, provided the Act passed. The Act did not pass, and therefore that agreement fell to the ground; but they considered that they having been offered that sum, that was the amount which they were entitled to expect to receive for the purchase of the bridge. That was reported to the Court of Common Council, and the Common Council did not deem it expedient to continue the treaty at that time. In 1853 the negotiation with the Southwark Bridge Company was renewed, in consequence of the deliberations of the Bridge-house Committee with respect to another bridge. On that occasion, Mr. Stephenson, the engineer, was consulted; and he threw out a suggestion of the propriety of purchasing Southwark Bridge, and throwing it open. The negotiation was then renewed with the Directors of the Southwark Bridge Company, under the expectation that they were disposed to take a less sum; but upon a further conference, the Directors of the Company still adhered to the price of 300,000 *l.*, and stated that there was no disposition on their part to take any less sum. In fact, it was intimated to the Bridge-house Committee, that unless that sum was immediately given, in all probability a larger sum would be asked. There seemed to be an impression amongst the directors that the bridge must be purchased for the benefit of the public, and that they would therefore have a chance of getting their own price.

240. Have you, by an examination of the Reports of the Company, ascertained what the income really derived from this bridge is?—I have. I find that the average annual amount of the net dividends of the Southwark Bridge Company, for the 14 years ending 1848, is about 2,270 *l.* I have no means of going lower than 1848. Now, supposing you take that at 30 years' purchase, it would be 68,000 *l.*; taking it at 40 years' purchase, it would be 91,000 *l.*

241. Instead of 300,000 *l.*, which the Directors ask?—Yes. The preference shareholders are the only persons who receive any income whatever. The preference shareholders have a right to 7½ per cent.; and until the 7½ per cent. is paid to the preference shareholders, the other shareholders do not get anything.

242. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether the tolls of the Southwark Bridge are increasing or decreasing?—They appear to fluctuate a good deal. They are rather decreasing than increasing; but I think probably they may now increase, as the City has been opening New Cannon-street.

243. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] In the negotiations which have taken place between the Bridge-house Committee and the Directors of the Southwark Bridge Company, has any proposition been made to them to rent it of them, and to open it to the public free for one year?—They were asked whether they would let it for a term of years; but they declined positively to enter into any treaty upon that subject. But no proposition has been made to them to open it for one year. The Bridge-house Committee have considered that there would be extreme difficulty in that.

244. One of the witnesses who was examined on a previous day, Mr. Jones, suggested that such a plan would be as much for the good of the company as for that of the public, inasmuch as by opening it in that way they would ascertain what amount of traffic would be likely to go over it, and to what extent it would save the necessity of building a new bridge?—It would be difficult to ascertain, in such a case, who should make good any repairs or dilapidations at the end of the year.

Ferdinand Brand, Esq.

21 March 1854.

245. Might not that easily be ascertained by seeing what the amount of the repairs had been for the last two or three years?—There has been no proposition made upon that subject.

246. Has the Bridge-house Committee had any report from any surveyors as to the state of that bridge?—Not at present. The Southwark Bridge Company, in their last negotiation with the committee, stated that it had been examined within the last six months by Mr. George Rennie, who had reported to them that it was in a perfectly sound condition.

247. Sir *B. Hall.*] Are the Committee to understand that all negotiations between the Corporation of the City of London and the Proprietors of the Southwark Bridge are at an end?—No, I do not apprehend that they are at an end at present.

248. Are they still pending?—They are still pending; but I should state that the Committee are not entering into those negotiations under any idea that they are to pay the whole cost of that bridge. They have no funds applicable to the purpose.

249. With what view are they negotiating?—They are negotiating rather with a view to the public. My impression is, that the City consider Southwark Bridge not as a mere civic bridge, but as a national concern; and that if it is purchased for the benefit of the public, the country at large should pay a portion of the expense of the bridge.

250. Then they are negotiating with the hope of obtaining a sum of money out of the Government funds to enable them, with the aid of any funds of their own that may be applicable to that purpose, to acquire that bridge?—That is my impression; that supposing they could come to an agreement with the Southwark Bridge Company, upon terms which they would think fair, they would then go to the Government and say, "Now we have ascertained that this bridge can be obtained at such a sum, it is very desirable for the public that it should be purchased; we are willing to contribute so much; what will you recommend to be contributed out of the public funds?"

251. Mr. Alderman *Challis*] What other information have you to lay before the Committee?—I have a plan of the steam-boat landing, that was referred to by Mr. Laing, at London Bridge. Mr. Laing was under a misapprehension as to the opening that was proposed to be made under London Bridge. He seemed to think that there is no communication upon the Surrey side of the river similar to that upon the London side. But that is a mistake; there is an archway under Wellington-street, in the same way as there is in Thames-street, so that persons can go under at the present moment if they choose, but they must come up the steps again.

252. What is the other plan you have?—The other is a plan with reference to a bridge which was proposed to be erected in the neighbourhood of St. Paul's, which was under the consideration of the Corporation.

253. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Was not Mr. Bennoch the projector of that bridge?—Yes; it has been marked for the convenience of the Committee upon Mr. Wyld's Plan of London, which will give the Committee an idea of the point where it was proposed to construct that bridge—(*The Witness produced the Plan, and pointed out the proposed line.*) That is the line of the proposed new bridge from the corner of the Old 'Change; it is a little to the westward of New Cannon-street; it strikes off at the corner of Old 'Change down to the Thames; it goes down at a right-angle, and crosses over the Thames. It touches the Thames at Trig-lane; then it crosses over to Bank-side, nearly opposite to what were the Phœnix Gas-works; and it is proposed to bring it out to Union-street. The road marked blue upon the plan shows a desirable extension (but not a necessary part of the plan) into the Southwark Bridge-road. The part shown in dark red from each bank of the river is intended to represent the land arches upon which the bridge is to be constructed before it comes to a level.

254. The banks are very steep here?—Yes.

255. What is the green line?—It is a proposed new street, to be carried from New Cannon-street, down to Earl-street, Blackfriars, to relieve the traffic.

256. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Is that plan now under consideration?—That plan is under consideration at present.

257. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Can you tell what the Corporation have done with respect to this matter?—This matter was taken into consideration by the Committee,

mittee, and very carefully gone into by the Bridge-house Committee; Mr. Bennoch attended them several times upon it, and was heard upon the subject.

258. Sir *B. Hall.*] When was that?—In 1852 and 1853. The Committee went to view the site, and looked at it on all sides, and took great pains to ascertain whether it was a good plan, and the Committee were of opinion that the bridge would be desirable, provided funds could be obtained for the purpose.

259. How did that plan come before the Bridge-house Committee?—It came by reference from the Court of Common Council; Mr. Bennoch brought it before the Court of Common Council. It was referred by the Court of Common Council to the Bridge-house Committee, and the Committee referred it to Mr. Stephenson, the engineer, and to the City architect, to consider the plan. I have Mr. Stephenson's report here, with the architect's report; Mr. Stephenson in his report says, "It is impossible to look into the whole case narrowly without feeling that the comparatively unused Southwark Bridge might be made available, and perhaps for a great length of time supersede the necessity of the proposed project." And that was what caused the Corporation to renew the negotiation with the Southwark Bridge Company.

260. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Was any estimate ever given of the expense of the proposed new bridge?—Mr. Bennoch gave an estimate before the Committee. Mr. Bennoch's estimate for the bridge was 120,000 *l.*, and for the approaches 24,000 *l.*; making a total of 144,000 *l.* That included the works only, without anything for the purchase of the property, or the clearing of the ground.

261. Have the Bridge-house Committee endeavoured to ascertain what the purchase of the property would cost?—They have not, because they reported first to the Court of Common Council to get their sanction as to the principle of it. In consequence of this recommendation of Mr. Stephenson in his report, they thought it right to renew the negotiation with the Southwark Bridge Company before they came to any absolute conclusion upon this plan. I will deliver in this report.—(*The same was delivered in.*)

262. *Chairman.*] Then nothing has been done upon it since?—Nothing has been done upon it since this report, which was in 1853.

263. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] But without something like a report of the estimate of what the property will come to that will be required for the purchase, the Bridge-house Committee are not in a situation to judge whether it would be desirable to buy that bridge or to build another?—Certainly not; but they first wished to ascertain whether the Corporation of London would entertain the principle of a new bridge upon that spot; whether they would think it better to purchase the Southwark Bridge. It was useless to go to a heavy expense in making surveys of the property till that question was decided.

264. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] In either case the Corporation contemplated not the furnishing of the whole funds themselves, but they should derive some part of the funds necessary for the purpose from the general funds of the country?—Certainly; they have no funds of their own applicable to the purpose. They looked first to the Bridge-house Estates; but the Bridge-house Estates could not be diverted from the trusts relating to London Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge without the sanction of Parliament, and therefore they looked to see whether there was any chance of getting anything there; but the Bridge-house Estates being so deeply mortgaged, there seemed to be little chance of obtaining any sufficient amount from that source. They considered that out of their own resources they were not called upon to pay the whole expense of buying any existing bridge, or of building a new bridge.

265. *Chairman.*] But they are willing to pay their portion of the expense?—Yes, and a liberal portion.

266. Do you think there would be any great objection to raising the rest by local taxation?—I think a rate would be exceedingly objectionable to the inhabitants of the city of London. I think the feeling of the Common Council is, that the inhabitants of the City of London would not willingly submit to a rate in the shape of an improvement rate.

267. If it were limited to the City of London?—I think the inhabitants of the metropolis generally would feel the same repugnance. I think there would be a repugnance on all hands to anything in the shape of a direct tax for the purpose of improvement.

268. Supposing that by a local rate either Southwark Bridge could be thrown open, or a new bridge built, do you think it would give any material assistance

Ferdinand Brand, Esq.

21 March 1854.

to the traffic of London Bridge; do you think it would divert much traffic from London Bridge?—It would divert some traffic; but unless it were accompanied by a new street, it would not relieve it to any great extent, as far as the railway traffic is concerned, because the approaches of Southwark Bridge go so far off before they come to a level. The committee have not lost sight of the difficulties of the approaches to Southwark Bridge; the committee have had that in their minds; and they consider that, in addition to the purchase-money for the bridge, a considerable sum must be expended to make the bridge available by altering the approaches.

269. Mr. Alderman *Challis*.] Do you know the width of Queen-street at the Cheapside end?—I do not know the exact width; it is very narrow.

270. And the property is very valuable?—It is. When I am speaking of the approaches to Southwark Bridge, I do not contemplate the widening of Queen-street. I am looking only to the removal of the acclivities from Thames-street, and from Pott's Vinegar-yard on to the bridge.

271. But in going from Cheapside, as it is now, to Southwark Bridge, you would be constantly liable to be blockaded?—It is my own opinion that it would be so, certainly.

272. Mr. *Wilkinson*.] When you speak of a new street, you mean a street from east to west, on the south side of the Thames?—Yes.

273. Something like that on the plan before the Committee?—Yes; because when you get on to Southwark Bridge, you have so far to go before you come to the level, that it wastes too much time to make that bridge at present available to those going, for example, to the railway terminus.

274. *Chairman*.] Are any further proceedings going to be taken with respect to the plan for a new bridge, now that the negotiations have failed for purchasing Southwark Bridge?—We do not consider at present that the negotiations are entirely broken off with the Southwark Bridge Company. The negotiation is still pending. I hold in my hand a book which may give some information to the Committee. Here is a report made by the engineer to the Commissioners of Sewers, which contains a Table, showing the traffic upon certain days in the year 1850, at various hours in the course of the day.—(*The same was delivered in.*)

Vide Appendix, No. 2.

James Bunning, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Bunning, Esq.

275. *Chairman*.] YOU are Architect to the Corporation of London?—Yes.

276. Did you prepare the model for the widening of London Bridge, which is now before the Committee?—I did.

277. How long ago was that?—I have had it in my mind for five or six years, but owing to the immense mass of business I have had to attend to for the Corporation, I have postponed it till it appeared to me that the traffic had increased to such an extent, that I thought no more time should be lost.

278. When was this produced before the Corporation?—About April of last year.

279. Of course you examined the state of the bridge?—Yes. The design was made with the intention of projecting the parapets over the sides of the bridge, and constructing the footways by means of iron cantalivers, bolted down to the voussoirs of the bridge. Of course, the traffic for foot passengers does not require so stable a construction as that for the carriage-way; and by this system, the entire solid part of the bridge would be thrown up for the carriage traffic. The parapet is intended to be of wrought iron, and the cantalivers of cast iron, and will be painted to agree with the stonework of the bridge, so that as little as possible of the architecture of the bridge should be destroyed. Feeling a good deal of delicacy in altering Sir John Rennie's work, I suggested to the Bridge-house Committee that he should be consulted. They kindly agreed to that; and not only did they think it necessary that Sir John should be consulted about the architectural effect, but that he should also be satisfied that it was not intended to put a greater weight upon the bridge than it could bear, for there has been a settlement in the bridge. The Committee not only sanctioned Sir John Rennie being employed, but they coupled with him Mr. Page. Those two gentlemen I had the pleasure of meeting. Soundings are now being taken, and I have no doubt that in the course of a week or ten days, a report will be made by those gentlemen.

280. Who is Mr. Page?—Engineer to the Board of Works.

281. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What is the extent of the addition proposed to be given?—A pathway of nine feet six inches, or ten feet, on each side.

282. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] About the same width as the present footway?—Yes. This centre line or division, which the Committee see upon the model along the middle of the bridge, was an idea that I had for facilitating the traffic. It struck me, that if the vehicles passing north and those going south were divided into two separate lines, it would increase the facility greatly.

283. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] I suppose you would rather refer us to the report from those gentlemen as to the probable amount of the expense?—The estimate I made was about 30,000 *l.*; but the rise of material has been exceedingly great since then. I should think 20 per cent., and that it would cost now 36,000 *l.*

284. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] That includes the new road?—Yes.

285. You have made provision for people crossing?—Yes.

286. The new roadway would be of a width corresponding with the width of the present roadway and pathways together?—Yes; affording room for six lines of carriages, three on each side.

287. Mr. *Jackson.*] What will be the increase in the width of the roadway, independently of the footpaths?—The roadway will be very nearly 50 feet.

288. What is it now?—About 30 feet.

289. Then that will be an increase of 20 feet in the roadway, and there will still be nine feet six inches on each side for foot passengers?—Yes.

290. Mr. *Williams.*] Has the settlement which you have spoken of in the bridge taken place lately?—No; that had taken place before my attention was particularly called to the bridge.

291. Mr. *Jackson.*] Would this addition be carried out in granite the same as the rest of the bridge?—No; entirely of iron.

292. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You would not as an architect think it any disfigurement?—It does not improve the bridge I am free to admit. But the question is, whether, circumstanced as London Bridge is, utility is to give place to architectural effect, or whether appearance and beauty is to give place to utility. I should certainly prefer the bridge remaining as it is in an architectural point of view; in fact, that was one point upon which I was exceedingly desirous that Sir John Rennie should be consulted, that if he had any objection to make to the Committee he should be at liberty to do so; because I think it very wrong to interfere with gentlemen's works without consulting them.

293. *Chairman.*] You do not apprehend any increase of weight in consequence of this alteration?—My idea is, that we should rather lessen the pressure than otherwise, because there are some very heavy granite parapets, which we shall remove.

294. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Quite as heavy as your iron work?—More so.

295. Do Sir John Rennie and Mr. Page concur in your opinion?—At the present moment Sir John Rennie and Mr. Page are confining themselves to the soundings of the river. Sir John Rennie certainly did not appear to like the scheme at all. What his report will be to the Committee I do not know.

296. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] And this would not interfere in any way with the traffic by water?—Not at all.

297. Has your attention been called to a suggestion which has been made for making a passage through the end of the bridge on the south side, so that persons coming by the steam-boats might be able to pass from one side of the bridge to the other without crossing the main line of traffic?—I have heard of that suggestion.

298. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything of that plan?—There is no difficulty in its being executed.

299. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Would not the widening of the bridge render it unnecessary?—No; the design is quite a distinct thing altogether, to enable a person instead of crossing over the bridge to pass through it.

300. *Chairman.*] Who is that plan projected by?—I think it originated with Mr. Dawson.

301. Sir *B. Hall.*] You consider that if the plan for widening the bridge, as set forth upon this model, were carried out, it would materially facilitate the traffic over the bridge?—I consider so, certainly.

302. Sir *J. Duke.*] In fact, you consider some such plan absolutely necessary?—I do, unless there is some other way to get across the river.

J. Bunning, Esq.

21 March 1854.

303. *Chairman.*] Do you know when this report is expected from the engineers, that you have referred to?—I am expecting it in a week or ten days; it may be a month.

Francis Bennoch, Esq., called in; and Examined.

F. Bennoch, Esq.

304. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are the projector of the plan which has been referred to by Mr. Brand, for a bridge across the Thames from St. Paul's?—I am.

305. Have you made any calculation what will be the expense of it?—I have. When I first undertook to examine the question, I felt it to be my duty not only to have the ground properly surveyed on both sides of the river, but also to go to the expense of having a design for a bridge made, and the quantities taken out, and an estimate made by contractors prepared to undertake the work at the price given in.

306. What did the estimate amount to?—I felt it of great importance that the Corporation should undertake the duty of surveying the property, and estimating the amount of compensation that should be given to the occupiers and proprietors of land over which the bridge and approaches must necessarily go; that, therefore, I considered was no part of the duty which I should impose upon myself, especially as the expense would be considerable, perhaps rather too much for a private individual to bear, merely for the purpose of proving a public necessity.

307. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] I believe you are an amateur in the matter?—Yes.

308. You only calculated the expense of the actual bridge?—Yes, the expense of the actual bridge, and the approaches to that bridge from the level on the City side to the level again on the Surrey side. The estimate at that time was 120,000*l.* for the construction of the bridge, and 24,000*l.* more for the approaches on both sides of the bridge from level to level, making a total of 144,000*l.* Of course, I need hardly say that since that time materials, as well as labour, have risen considerably, and if an estimate were to be given now, it would be probably 20 to 25 per cent. higher than it was then.

309. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What was the width of this proposed bridge?—Sixty feet.

310. Sir *J. Duke.*] How is that as compared with the present London Bridge?—Six feet wider than the present London Bridge; but I am of opinion now, that instead of being 60 feet it would be a wise economy to have it 80 or 90 feet wide, almost to have two bridges in one, because the traffic at this point would immediately be immense.

311. *Chairman.*] What is the bridge to be built of?—It was proposed that the piers should be stone with wrought-iron girders.

312. Do you consider that a bridge could be built at that part of the river cheaper than anywhere else?—My impression is, much cheaper, because the property from St. Paul's Churchyard to the river side is property of comparatively little value; the streets are narrow, contracted, and ill adapted to great commercial operations; so that warehousemen who require a considerable amount of room for their waggons, avoid them. When you come to Thames-street the property is necessarily very valuable, because of the number of wharves in that immediate neighbourhood; but it singularly enough happens, that just at that particular point the property is of less consideration than any other property that could be touched upon between the Temple and the Tower; this happens to be an iron wharf, where plain sheds are required to protect it from moisture and corrosion, and this could be done much better by the dry arches of a bridge on girders carried upon columns, and would form altogether a much better wharf than the owners now have. Then, on the Surrey side, I think it would be almost impossible for the imagination to conceive a condition of society more fearful than that of the population through which the approach would go on that side from the point at which it touches the bank, till it reaches the junction of the Southwark Bridge-road, near the Elephant and Castle; it is impossible for language to describe the condition in which the people are there, not living, but festering.

313. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] You mean that it would be a great improvement to clear that neighbourhood away for the purpose of making an approach to the bridge?—

F. Bennoch, Esq.

21 March 1854.

bridge?—Yes, it would be as great an advantage, in a sanitary point of view, as the construction of the bridge would be to the traffic. This line happens to come between two great thoroughfares, Blackman-street on the one side, and Blackfriars Bridge-road on the other side, and there is no other main street running through this district excepting the crooked approach to Southwark Bridge. The people have got crowded together; and the alterations made in other parts have driven the poor into this particular locality in great numbers. I think it would be an excellent plan to take advantage of such an opening to construct a large series of dwellings for the poor in that particular locality, where they are needed, near the river side, and sufficiently near their work to enable them to go to and fro without much fatigue or loss of time.

314. Does not the amount you have stated, viz. 144,000*l.* strike you as remarkably small for the bridge and the approaches?—That is for the actual works; that has nothing to do with compensation for the property that would be taken. I thought it better that the corporation should judge of that; but I thought it was a very small sum; I was much astonished at it, and I think I may as well mention the names of the gentlemen whom I consulted. In the first place I consulted with Sir Charles Fox; I was with him three or four times with reference to a structure of this kind; we devoted many hours to the consideration of the subject. He recommended to me a gentleman who had been engaged for many years in constructing and designing such works, and who is now at Copenhagen, carrying out the works under Sir Charles Fox, in connexion with that gigantic railway. I thought it was better to have a man whose character and scientific reputation were unquestionable, than to have a man whose standing might be doubtful; I got him to make a survey of the ground and a design for a bridge; his name is Brounger. He had frequently been employed by engineers in designing bridges. He had the assistance of a gentleman who, I believe, is now engaged in constructing the Crystal Palace, and one of the best judges in England with regard to constructions of iron, and the two together made the estimate. I therefore felt perfectly safe in their hands, and I have since that period had a bridge designed by engineers of equal eminence, Messrs. Liddell and Gordon, and they were prepared to construct the bridge and the whole of the approaches for 100,000*l.*, which seemed to me to be a very small sum.

315. Sixty feet wide?—Yes. Of course I did not bring that before the corporation formally, although I named it incidentally, because they had already before them an estimate which was considered as ridiculously low; and I considered that it was of no use to bring before them a still lower estimate, which would only, perhaps, still more excite their disbelief. I have had many designs and suggestions from people desirous of bringing their plans before the public. My attention has been directed to one of the most gigantic kind, which for elaboration, beauty, and adaptability, not only to the present necessities, but to all that may hereafter be required, surpasses every structure hitherto conceived; and I am told it can be executed for much less than the Corporation believe would be required for an ordinary bridge. The scheme to which I refer is this: I believe that the Government have some notion of bringing the railways into connexion with the Post-office, and if that be considered necessary for postal communication with the North of England, it is of course infinitely more required with regard to the Continental postal arrangements, and that could be effected more easily from the southern than from the northern side. A railway is projected to come to the southern side of the river, and by a bridge at this particular point, with arrangements for a railway underneath, through which the mail-trains might pass and enter a tunnel as soon as it reached the City side of the river, and come up to the Post-office, where the bags could without labour or loss of time be deposited. That has been provided for in connexion with the bridge to which I refer. And perhaps the Committee may think it important for them to hear something from the gentleman who has designed this magnificent structure; it is one of the grandest designs that ever was conceived.

316. Mr. *Wilkinson*.] What is the name of the gentleman?—The name of the designer is Mr. Sang.

317. You spoke just now of the population of the neighbourhood through which the approach to your bridge will pass on the Surrey side. They are of course a labouring population?—They are a labouring population engaged in that particular

F. Bennoch, Esq.

21 March 1854.

particular locality. There are a considerable number of slaughter-houses about there; and the trades incidental to that necessary occupation are not of the pleasantest, or perhaps of the most healthy character; such as bone-boiling, gut-twisting, and a variety of other matters exceedingly odorous, but by no means salubrious.

318. And being a labouring population, they are drawn to that spot in order to be near the scene of their operations?—Undoubtedly; a great number of people engaged along the river side are compelled to live in that locality, not only for convenience, but in consequence of the cheapness of lodgings.

319. Therefore it would be an exceedingly good site for the purpose of erecting improved dwellings for the working classes?—Certainly.

320. *Chairman.*] Is not that the case all along the Thames on the Surrey side?—I think almost all the bone-grinding places and gut-twisting places are confined to that particular locality, for there the slaughter-houses are fixed to a large extent. Now that necessity, in the course of a twelvemonth, will in all probability be done away with; because I apprehend it is arranged by the Corporation that on opening the new market the slaughter-houses will be contiguous to it, and cattle will not be driven to other localities for the purpose of being slaughtered.

321. Sir *J. Duke.*] Would your bridge interfere with New Cannon-street?—It would not at all interfere with it; that street would form, necessarily, one of its approaches. New Cannon-street comes into St. Paul's Churchyard at the south-east corner of the Cathedral; the street should spring from Watling-street, if the new bridge is to be constructed; and one must be constructed in the course of time, since, as I shall be able to prove, more bridges are really required, and that is, perhaps, of all positions, about the best that could be chosen for the erection of our first new bridge. Starting from Watling-street, and crossing New Cannon-street, you have about 50 or 60 yards to Old Fish-street, and that would be the point from which the new bridge would take its rise upon the dry arches, and be continued at a dead level till it reached the Surrey side of the river. I have laid it down here, upon the Map of London (*producing the same*). I think the Committee would do well to take notice of this particular point. There is a new street projected here to go to Earl-street, Blackfriars, in order to give relief to Ludgate-hill. The only object of this new street from this point at Bow-lane to Earl-street is to relieve Ludgate-hill of the traffic of this quarter that desires to cross the river. Here there is a large amount of expenditure proposed, merely for the purpose of accommodating the traffic from this point to Blackfriars Bridge. Now, my opinion is that Blackfriars Bridge is not sufficient, but that a new bridge must be made somewhere, and without loss of time. These new approaches to Blackfriars by Earl-street would cost at least from 180,000*l.* to 200,000*l.* I have no hesitation in saying that more than half the new bridge and its approaches could be constructed for the cost of this one new street; then you get, not only a new line for traffic over the water, but you avoid taking the expensive property, which the Earl-street extension would cross diagonally.

322. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] But you are of course aware that this new street is proposed to be constructed for the purpose of taking off the traffic which comes over Blackfriars Bridge?—Yes; but it so happens that the Blackfriars Bridge is probably the worst position for a bridge that there is in the metropolis. They have chosen the lowest part on each side of the river as the place from which the bridge should spring. Now seven-eighths of all the traffic over Blackfriars Bridge comes from a high level, so that both on the Temple Bar side and on the St. Paul's side of the valley of the Fleet they are obliged to descend a hill to get down to the point from which the bridge springs. Then they must ascend a hill to get over the water, and Blackfriars Bridge hill is nearly as bad as Holborn-hill. Any waggon coming from any part of Southwark south of Blackfriars Road would never come over Blackfriars Bridge, but over the new bridge, and would save the double hill. I have here a table showing how the traffic arranges itself. I have gone into the question with reference to this improvement. I had men employed in taking the traffic there a fortnight ago, and the statement shows the traffic of vehicles passing from Ludgate-hill over Blackfriars Bridge, and *vice versâ*, and from Earl-street over Blackfriars Bridge, and *vice versâ*, from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m., on Wednesday, February 8th, 1854. The Ludgate-hill portion

41

tion of the traffic going over Blackfriars to and from the Old Bailey is as follows:—Islington and Kennington omnibuses, 128; all other vehicles, 985; making a total of 1,113. The vehicles that go over Blackfriars Bridge to and from St. Paul's Churchyard are, 29 South Western Railway and City omnibuses, and 405 of other vehicles; making 434. The vehicles going along Earl-street are, cabs, 83; all other vehicles, 502. Presuming that those 83 cabs have probably come from St. Paul's Churchyard down to Earl-street to avoid Ludgate-hill, I have therefore added them to the 434 vehicles to and from St. Paul's Churchyard; making a total of 517. Thus we have 517 vehicles going down Ludgate-hill to pass over Blackfriars Bridge, while we have 1,113 going along the Old Bailey, and so over the bridge. The other vehicles, to the number of 502, consist of waggons, &c., which do not come from or go to the upper level towards Cheapside, except in rare instances, and therefore cannot enter into any calculation with reference to the new street. So that this new street, if constructed, would only accommodate 517 vehicles during the day; and if you suppose that they would go at the rate of three miles an hour, it would leave each vehicle in this distance 88 yards apart, instead of crowding upon each other as they do at present in Ludgate-hill. An omnibus starting from the Post-office to go to Kennington would be at the Elephant and Castle before it at present gets to Blackfriars Bridge, in consequence of the perpetual crowd and crush at various corners. Blackfriars Bridge will never be good for much until rebuilt. When brought down to a 20 feet headway it may become a good bridge. There is a scheme afloat to adapt the river to the bridges by artificial dams, instead of adapting the bridges to the river. How this is to be done may perhaps be gathered from witnesses versed in City affairs. Now, in considering the best way to relieve the traffic in the street, of course the first question is in reference to the bridges. In fact, it was noticing the crowding of the bridges that first led me to devote my time to considering the question how we should best relieve the traffic of the streets. I find that the traffic in the streets increases very rapidly, perhaps in a proportion that we can hardly believe; but taking the calculation for four years, I find that the traffic over London Bridge increases year by year from 5 to 7½ per cent.

323. *Chairman.*] For how long a period is that?—I have taken it for four years. I consider that it has increased in four years 30 per cent. at least. If we take Southwark Bridge as about the centre of the City at the present moment, halfway between London Bridge and Blackfriars, and if a line be drawn from north to south, I find that you have all that enormous population lying south and east of the Elephant and Castle and the Clapham-road, which must come over London Bridge. And you have all that enormous population lying north-east of the Thames, east of Goswell-road and the Angel, Islington, embracing the district of Finsbury, the Tower Hamlets as far as Limehouse and Stepney, and the whole of Hackney, Hoxton, Clapton, and Tottenham; and the waggons along the Docks have no other means of getting across to Rotherhithe or the railways on the other side than by London Bridge. Take, for instance, Mr. Torr, the animal charcoal-burner in Rotherhithe. He supplies the sugar refiners on the Middlesex side with charcoal with which to refine their sugar; he employs some 40 or 50 horses; I believe he has 10 waggons constantly employed; they are obliged to traverse three miles on the Surrey side, and three-and-a-half or four miles on the Middlesex side, to carry material from one place to another, which are not a mile apart if they had a direct communication across the river. Now I estimate, taking the population on both sides, that London Bridge supplies a population of at least a million; that is to say, a million of people requiring bridge accommodation have only London Bridge to give them that accommodation.

324. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] That is half the population of London?—Nearly, not quite. The whole population of London is about 2,400,000. Now, I find that in 1801, when the population was only 958,000, there were three bridges. In 1811 the population was 1,138,000, but we had no addition to the number of bridges. In 1821 the population was 1,378,000, and we had two additional bridges completed, which were found to be essential, making five in all. In 1831 we had one bridge widened; still we had only five bridges, although the population had risen to 1,654,000; the bridge widened being New London Bridge, which was opened in that year. In 1851 there was another bridge added, the Hungerford foot-bridge; making six bridges in all. But at the last

F. Bennoch, Esq.

21 March 1854.

census the population was 2,361,640, and yet we have no more bridge accommodation than we had when the population was 800,000 less. However rapidly the population has increased since the last bridge was opened, it has been trifling when compared with the increase of waggons, carts, carriages, cabs, and omnibuses, the latter being unknown before 1828, demanding wider streets, and more bridges.

325. Sir *B. Hall.*] In each case you take the same area?—I take the same area in each case.

326. *Chairman.*] Have not the tolls been taken off some of the bridges?—No; there has been no toll taken off or changed since that period. The toll was taken off Blackfriars Bridge, I believe, some time during the last century. Taking the population in 1821, and supposing that the population at that period demanded two new bridges, and got two new bridges, it would then give about 250,000 as the number of the population to be supplied by one bridge. If that be taken as the proper mode of ascertaining the necessity for bridge accommodation, we ought at the present moment, in London, instead of five bridges, to have at least 10 bridges to accommodate the public. One of the reasons why the streets are so crowded in the city is, that almost all our leading thoroughfares converge at London Bridge. We have a large quantity of traffic from the west going to the South Eastern Railway, and a large quantity of traffic from the north going over the water, and they prefer the high level of London Bridge to the low level of Blackfriars; so that from all that area, between Goswell-street, round by Hackney and Limehouse, come up to London Bridge; and there is a tremendous crush in Fenchurch-street; on the other side of the river we have them coming from Rotherhithe, and Bermondsey, and Greenwich, and Camberwell, and Clapham, and Wandsworth, all crowding to London Bridge. Now the question is, how to get rid of this traffic that is every day increasing. I think it would fall within the scope of the inquiry of this Committee to see what is done in other great cities; for instance, in New York, over the East River, and over the North River, which is four miles wide, there is a continual supply of steam ferry-boats, starting every five minutes, sufficiently large to convey 10 waggons and 1,000 men, if required. If we had something of that kind at the river-side, say, for example, about the lower part of the Tower, and crossing over to Dockhead, we would have a continual traffic across, and relieve London Bridge of nearly one-eighth of its present traffic.

327. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Would it not very much interfere with the traffic up and down the river?—Not in the least.

328. Sir *B. Hall.*] In the cases to which you refer, in New York, is any toll levied?—There is a very light charge.

329. Are those ferries at New York private speculations?—Some of them are private, and some open; where the city claims the river-side, they let the ferries to parties who are disposed to take them, and permit a small toll to be levied.

330. Sir *J. Duke.*] When you consider the number of barges coming up the Pool during a flood tide, do you think it would be possible to navigate a steamboat across the river at such a time?—There would be some difficulty, but that would not be insurmountable. There might be a guiding chain underneath, to enable them to go very nearly in a straight line. There is always plenty of opportunity for crossing.

331. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] It would be like the Chain-bridge at Portsmouth?—Similar to that, but much simpler.

332. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you know whether any such scheme has ever been suggested in the metropolis?—I believe that, in consequence of my suggesting this incidentally when I proposed the new bridge to the Corporation, several companies were talked of, but none seem to have been matured.

333. *Chairman.*] As regards the site of the proposed new bridge, are you convinced that the one which you have proposed is the best site that could be fixed upon?—I have no affection for any particular site; but in my opinion, looking at the whole matter, taking the condition of the traffic and the manner in which it leads to particular points, a bridge at that place would relieve London Bridge in all probability of one-fourth of the actual traffic from the Surrey side of the river. I think that half the omnibuses from Clapham and Brixton, and Camberwell, instead of finding their way round by London Bridge, would come straight to St. Paul's, or to the Post-office, because they would be at the

Post-office

43

F. Bennoch, Esq.

21 March 1854.

Post-office before they could be at the Monument, and persons going near St. Paul's would save nearly a mile every day. I believe it would take one-fourth of the north-east traffic off Blackfriars Bridge.

334. As regards the present traffic to the railway over London Bridge, would it affect that?—Of course, if you took off a quarter of the traffic over London Bridge, that would add one-fourth to the facility of going to the railway.

335. By having the new bridge at St. Paul's, would you not oblige everybody who used that bridge in going from the railways to the West End to go through St. Paul's Churchyard and Fleet-street, and the Strand?—The bridge I am proposing is not so much for the accommodation of people going to the railway, as for the local traffic of the metropolis. It must be observed that, at present, we have no street that runs direct south and north. Now, it will be observed by the plan laid upon this map, that if this line were opened, we should have for the first time a street from Islington through the City to Clapham Common, without unnecessarily diverging from the one point to the other. If a person desires to go from the Elephant and Castle to St. Paul's at present, he is obliged to go a great way round, unless he comes over Southwark Bridge, which is nearly as crooked; and on the City side of Southwark Bridge the gradient is as steep as Holborn-hill, which has been a nuisance from time immemorial.

336. Sir *J. Duke.*] Might not that be remedied by an arch?—I believe it cannot be remedied conveniently now. Mr. Brand has told the Committee that the value put upon Southwark Bridge is 300,000 *l.*; I may add, that before you can make the approaches available, there will be a necessary expenditure of 150,000 *l.* in addition, making 450,000 *l.*; for this reason Queen-street is under 50 feet wide, and if you were to have a viaduct, you have not room without destroying the premises on the one side or the other, which would be an enormous expense. It is a misfortune that when the property was taken down a few years ago, the opportunity was not taken to make it sufficiently wide for a good approach to the bridge. Then, the upper part of Queen-street is only some 21 or 24 feet wide; and when you get to Cheapside, there you have a dead lock. Southwark Bridge itself being only 42 feet wide, you can never have more than three carriages abreast.

337. *Chairman.*] Then you differ in opinion from Mr. Stephenson, who stated in his Report that it would be better to enter into a fresh negotiation with the Southwark Bridge Company before making any plan for a new bridge?—I think it is a very proper thing that this bridge should be free, and that all bridges should be free; but it becomes a question for the City what is the cheapest for them to adopt. If it is to cost 300,000*l.*, and 150,000*l.* for the approaches, that is 450,000*l.* for a bridge only 42 feet wide; and if you can get one 60 feet wide for a sum not larger, I think there can be no question with reference to which is the best. Besides, if you add to the cost of Southwark Bridge the cost of the new approach to Blackfriars, you have 200,000*l.* more, making an aggregate expense of 650,000*l.*, and I have offered to construct a new bridge, including every expense, for 500,000*l.*

338. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Your belief is, that the bridge which you propose may be executed for 500,000*l.*, including the approaches?—I was prepared to offer securities to construct the whole affair, in a way that should be satisfactory to the City and to the Government, for 500,000 *l.*

339. Including the whole of the approaches and the whole cost of the land?—Including the whole of the approaches and the whole of the land from St. Paul's Churchyard to the level of Union-street. The corporation are very anxious, I believe, to carry out this improvement. Their only difficulty is money.

340. *Chairman.*] How much did London Bridge cost?—London Bridge cost, removing the Old Bridge, 35,600*l.*; building the New Bridge, 680,232*l.*; and the approaches, 1,840,436*l.*; making together, 2,566,268*l.* I am desirous of mentioning to the Committee two or three points with respect to the necessity for more bridges. Any man who comes over London Bridge, as I do, twice a day, must be satisfied that we want at least two bridges to relieve the traffic; there is quite enough traffic there for two bridges. I have here a table of the traffic, taken by 24 men, whom I employed on all the bridges of London on one day last year. I find, with reference to foot passengers, that between nine o'clock in the morning and six at night, over London Bridge there were 63,080. Over Southwark Bridge, 1,357; over Blackfriars Bridge, 30,089. Over Waterloo Bridge, 6,234; and over Westminster Bridge, 26,170; making a total over those four bridges, South-

F. Bennoch, Esq.

21 March 1854.

wark, Blackfriars, Waterloo, and Westminster, of 63,850. Now, over London Bridge we have within a fraction the same number; viz. 63,080. So that, in one day, there are within 800 as many foot passengers going over London Bridge as over all the other bridges put together. As to the equestrian traffic, of which also I have a return, I need make no mention, as no man in his senses would go on horseback over London Bridge. Then, taking vehicles, we have over Southwark Bridge, 307; over Blackfriars Bridge, 4,359; over Waterloo Bridge, 1,709; and over Westminster Bridge, 5,840; so that over those four bridges we have a total of 12,215, and over London Bridge it is 11,498. So that, with regard to vehicles, we have very nearly as many going over London Bridge as over all the rest of the bridges put together.

341. Sir *B. Hall.*] Can you state at what hour of the day the numbers were the largest?—Yes, I have them all, hour by hour. You will find at the hours at which people are rushing into the City a great increase over London Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge, and then in the middle of the day there is an increase over Westminster Bridge; I suppose people going to enjoy themselves at the West End; but in the morning there is a great rush to the City. In fact, three-fourths of all the people going over the bridges in the morning, find in the City the centre of attraction. These facts and figures are, I think, unanswerable, and form a very strong argument in favour of further bridge accommodation. I will hand in these tables.

[*The same were delivered in, and are as follows:*]

TABLES showing the Traffic of the Bridges.

Pedestrian Traffic.

BRIDGES.	Ten.	Eleven.	Twelve.	One.	Two.	Three.	Four.	Five.	Six.	Total.
London - -	8,175	7,374	6,885	6,707	6,195	6,180	6,651	7,773	7,140	63,080
Southwark - -	139	175	209	165	130	160	130	119	130	1,357
Blackfriars -	4,099	2,989	2,925	3,259	3,143	3,830	3,296	3,434	3,114	30,089
Waterloo - -	681	683	689	616	610	636	705	817	797	6,234
Westminster -	2,640	2,700	2,880	2,980	2,460	2,460	3,160	2,900	3,990	26,170
	7,559	6,547	6,703	7,020	6,343	7,086	7,291	7,270	8,031	63,850

Equestrian Traffic.

BRIDGES.	Ten.	Eleven.	Twelve.	One.	Two.	Three.	Four.	Five.	Six.	Total.
London - -	5	15	10	12	13	7	11	25	16	114
Southwark -	21	16	13	4	- -	9	1	11	18	93
Blackfriars -	8	9	9	9	5	10	17	14	10	91
Waterloo - -	5	1	6	1	4	2	3	3	10	35
Westminster -	15	35	34	44	26	47	21	34	41	297
	49	61	62	58	35	68	42	62	79	516

Vehicular

45

VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

BRIDGES.	Ten.	Eleven.	Twelve.	One.	Two.	Three.	Four.	Five.	Six.	TOTAL.
London - -	1,311	1,248	1,373	1,288	1,185	1,092	1,265	1,426	1,310	11,498
Southwark - -	35	38	33	34	25	30	38	42	32	307
Blackfriars -	338	430	615	550	490	410	444	510	572	4,359
Waterloo - -	119	183	203	200	164	205	188	260	187	1,709
Westminster -	490	650	680	640	560	650	660	790	720	5,840
	982	1,301	1,531	1,424	1,239	1,295	1,330	1,602	1,511	12,215

A question was asked in the House of Commons last summer with a view to ascertain the decision of the Government with respect to the rebuilding of Westminster Bridge, which was answered by Sir William Molesworth, the Chief Commissioner of Works, to the effect, that after mature deliberation it was determined to rebuild Westminster Bridge on its present site, but that considering the vast increase of the population, and having due regard to the public convenience, additional bridges were required, and he intimated that one was projected to be built at Charing Cross, and another at Lambeth. This prompt and explicit reply suggested to me the propriety of accurately ascertaining the proportionate traffic of the various bridges, and the result was the Table which I have just given. If the new bridge at Westminster, which will be fully as wide as the New London Bridge, is held to be unequal to the traffic of the district, and that two additional bridges are demanded, I conceived that I would ill perform my duty if I did not take means to learn how such an argument would apply to London Bridge, and whether it would support or destroy the argument in favour of an additional bridge within the City boundary. I therefore arranged to have a number of men stationed on the several bridges to take an accurate account of the traffic between the hours of nine o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening. Now if the Chief Commissioner of Works is correct in his opinion that the traffic of Westminster Bridge and the convenience of the public demand two additional bridges in that neighbourhood, on comparing the traffic of Westminster Bridge with that of London Bridge, it will be seen that London Bridge has double the amount of traffic, and therefore ought to have four additional bridges to make it equal with Westminster.

342. Sir *J. Shelley.*] But would not the Charing Cross Bridge, which Sir William Molesworth spoke of, relieve some of the other bridges, because it would take a great deal of traffic from the Strand?—If you look at the map of London, and calculate the number of people who desire to go to different localities, you will find that my argument is a pretty strong one. But I have other arguments; I think it important to know what other people require under similar circumstances. When I was in Paris, I took pains to ascertain the exact amount of bridge accommodation there; I find that they have in fact 10 times more bridge accommodation in Paris, a pleasure-taking city, than we have in London, where there is a large amount of business conducted.

343. *Chairman.*] The river is not quite so wide as the Thames?—No, it is not.

344. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Is it not the fact, that on some of the bridges at Paris there are not half a dozen people going over in a day?—Perhaps not; but I think the principal manufacturing city in France comes nearer the point, because we find there, as in London, a large population upon one side of the river, and another large population upon the other side of the river; at Lyons,

F. Bennoch, Esq.

21 March 1854.

I find that in five miles there are 12 bridges over the Saone, and in three miles and a half, seven over the Rhone, making 19 altogether. At Lyons the population is only 350,000, or about one-seventh of ours; and if population be taken as the criterion for the number of bridges required to place London on a level with Lyons in that respect, there ought to be 132 instead of seven bridges over the Thames. But let us ascertain what is done in a commercial city at home. Through the kindness of Mr. Alexander Hastie, the Member for Glasgow, I got yesterday a return of the bridge accommodation at Glasgow; they have opened two bridges within a very short time; they opened one last year, and they are now setting to work to get another, in order to have sufficient accommodation; there we find an example worthy of being imitated.

345. Sir. *J. Shelley.*] How are those bridges paid for?—By money borrowed upon the tolls, to a certain extent; but there is now a movement to have them entirely free. The parties on either side of the river are to pay a small rate, and it is proposed to keep them free in perpetuity. At Glasgow, I find that the Clyde is 400 feet wide; the population of Glasgow is 300,000 on the one side, and 85,000 on the other side of the river; together, 385,000. They have three stone bridges, and a suspension foot bridge; two of the stone bridges are 60 feet wide each, and the other 40 feet wide. Now, if three bridges are required for 385,000 people in Glasgow, then for London, with a population of 2,400,000, we ought to have at least 18 bridges, to have the same amount of accommodation for the public.

346. *Chairman.*] Do you know at what distance the bridges are apart, at Glasgow?—The whole four are within half a mile; it is not quite half a mile from the lowest to the highest. While in Glasgow they have four bridges within a space of half a mile, in London we have only five within two miles; to equal Glasgow in that respect, London should have 12 bridges. It is important to know that our streets are much crowded in consequence of waggons creeping along the river side instead of getting across the river at the most convenient point. In Glasgow the aggregate width of the bridge accommodation is 160 feet; in London, from Westminster Bridge to London Bridge, we have only 220 feet of bridge accommodation. In Glasgow there is one foot of bridge accommodation for every 2,380 persons; in London we have only one foot for 11,363; in other words, the population of Glasgow enjoys five times the amount of bridge accommodation provided for the people of London. London Bridge provides accommodation for at least 1,000,000, which, being only 54 feet wide, gives only one foot for 18,000 persons designed to be accommodated by that particular bridge; so that, whether you take it as regards population, or as regards traffic, with reference to the bridge accommodation enjoyed by other cities and towns, London is the worst accommodated of any city in Europe. I have here a table, which is not to be found anywhere else, that I am aware of. I had considerable difficulty in obtaining the facts, which are gathered from various sources. It is a Table showing proportions, costs, and other particulars relating to the several bridges; it gives you the length and width of the bridge, the height of the headway, the number of arches, the span of the centre, when began, when finished, the waterway, the material, the name of the architect, the cost of the bridge, the cost of the approaches, the total cost, and the gradients on each side.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

TABLE

TABLE showing the Proportions, Cost, and other Particulars relating to the several Bridges.

NAME.	Length.	Width.	Height above High Water.	Arches.	Span of Centre.	Begun.	Finished.	Waterway.	Material.	Architect.	Cost of Bridge.	Cost of Approaches.	Total.	Gradients, Surrey Side.
	Feet.	*Feet*	*Feet.*		*Feet.*			*Feet.*			£.	£.	£.	*In 100 Ft.*
London -	920	54	29½	5	150	1824	1831	690	Granite - -	J. Rennie	Removing Old Bridge, 35,600 680,232	1,840,436	2,566,268	4·
Southwark -	700	42	29½	3	240	1814	1819	660	Iron - - -	J. Rennie	- - -	- -	800,000	3·3 City side, 4·6
Blackfriars -	995	42	27½	9	100	1710	1769	793	Portland Stone -	R. Mylne	- - -	- -	210,000	3·10
Waterloo -	1,326	43	27½	9	120	1811	1817	1,080	Cornish Granite -	J. Rennie	- - -	- -	1,000,000	3·0
Westminster	1,220	40	25	15	76	1739	1750	820	Portland Stone -	Labeyle -	- - -	- -	388,700	3·9
		221						4,043						
Proposed, St. Paul's -	-	60	27½	5	240	-	-	960	Iron - -	- -	144,000	-	-	2·6

Average Width of Waterway, 800 feet.

347. Have you any account of what the bridges cost at Glasgow?—I have. According to Mr. Hastie's information, one of the stone bridges cost 42,000*l.*, another cost 36,000*l.*, and the third cost 28,000*l.* I have not the cost of the Suspension Bridge, because it is a private speculation.

348. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Is there any account of the expense of the approaches to those bridges?—Judging from the map of Glasgow, which came to me from another source this morning, it seems that the river trust of Glasgow have acted very judiciously. They have taken care to have proper embankments of the Clyde, with a sufficient area to allow of almost any amount of traffic between the river side and the houses, so that the bridges come on to the quay, and must save an enormous expense with regard to approaches. I hope that something of a similar kind will before long be effected in London.

349. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] What is the difference between the width of the Clyde at Glasgow, and the width of the Thames at London?—It is about one-half. I find that the average waterway of the five bridges in London is 800 feet, and in the Clyde it is a fraction over 400 feet.

350. Can you state whether they are all supported by tolls?—I will state the information I have obtained. I put questions to Mr. Hastie, and he has answered them in this way, "How was the cost met? By money borrowed on security of the tolls.—Are they all free? None are at present free." At present there is an agitation, I believe, for the purpose of making them all free. "If not, what pontage is levied? Two-pence for each cart of goods, and 1*d.* for coals, 2*d.* for each cab with one horse, 4*d.* for the carriages with two horses."

351. Sir *J. Duke.*] Have you turned your attention to the question how the expense of the proposed new bridge could be met?—I have; and I think that we have got some information to-day that may somewhat relieve us from the difficulty in that respect, because, from the evidence given by Mr. Brand it appears that the Bridge-house Committee have now at their command about 230,000*l.* They have borrowed 431,000*l.*, and rather more than one-half the time of the annuities has expired, and that amount might be considered a very fair contribution for the City of London.

352. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do you think that a rate upon the inhabitants of London would be acceptable, or would be unpopular?—No tax is acceptable; everybody would rather that anybody else paid it than himself. But I believe, from a great number of inquiries which I have made, that not only would there be no objection to a tax of the kind, but that it would be borne cheerfully, and it would be a very just tax. But it should not be levied merely upon the inhabitants of the metropolis. I hold that Middlesex and a large portion of Kent are as deeply interested in the question of bridges as are the inhabitants of

F. Bennoch, Esq.

21 March 1854.

the metropolis. People who grow vegetables and fruits of all kinds for consumption in London, ought to be taxed just as legitimately as people who live in the metropolis. The people who have articles to sell, and come there to sell their produce, have as good a right to pay the tax as the people living in London who buy the produce.

353. Sir *B. Hall.*] What body is there in existence at present that you think ought to levy the tax, and to manage the proceeds of it?—I do not think that you have any body in existence at present that could be trusted with the levying of this tax; I think it would be very proper to have in London, as they have in Glasgow, a river trust, which, if I am rightly informed, is composed partly of gentlemen and merchants, who use the river; a certain portion of the corporation form another part of the trust, and other persons appointed by the counties form another part; the whole being 24 persons in number; they form the river trust, to whom the management of the banks of the river, and the bridges, and everything of that kind is entrusted. Now, something of that sort might be done in London; the Corporation of the City of London, and the counties of Surrey, Kent and Middlesex, might each delegate a certain number of members to form a certain trust; a bridge commission, for the express purpose of conducting these matters, and be vested with powers to levy a rate upon the population which they represented, or, if we have before long the whole metropolis divided into corporations, as has been elsewhere suggested, the thing would be easier done.

354. Mr. *Pellatt.*] You have stated that the expense of the approaches is included in your estimate for the new bridge; to what extent does the approach go on the Surrey side?—To the level of Union-street; in other words, a little further than the line marked horizontally on that map of Mr. Pennethorne's. As part of my scheme, I suggest that a street should be carried straight to the Elephant and Castle. My belief is, that properly managed, the property so taken, being comparatively valueless at present, would increase so largely in value, that the ground-rent would, to a large extent, pay for the compensation given for the land.

355. Is the plan before the Committee at all according to your views?—I think it is an exceedingly good plan. A wide street on the south side of the river, from Westminster to London bridge, into which all lateral traffic would fall, if made wide enough, 70 feet at least, could not fail to be of immense advantage.

356. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] In fact, you think that no plan for bridge accommodation would be complete without a new road passing along the Surrey side?—I think that is an exceedingly good plan for accommodating the traffic to the railways; but it would be still better if the South Western Railway were to come to the point of the new bridge, opposite St. Pauls, and if the South Eastern should have a branch to the same point for the accommodation of persons seeking that quarter of the city, and still more for the economy and convenience of our continental and colonial postage. By such an arrangement the mail train might start an hour earlier every night, and the distance between London and Paris be shortened by an hour.

Martis, 9° die Maii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Oliveira.	Sir John Shelley.
Lord Robert Grosvenor.	Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Mr. Alderman Challis.
Mr. Pellatt.	Mr. Locke.
Lord Alfred Hervey.	

BENJAMIN OLIVEIRA, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

James Walker, Esq., called in; and Examined.

James Walker, Esq.

9 May 1854.

357. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Civil Engineer, I believe?—I am.

358. You have been president of the Institution of Civil Engineers?—I was president of the Institution of Civil Engineers for ten years; I succeeded Mr. Telford in that situation, and I was elected for the 11th year, but I declined to serve longer.

359. You

359. You have been employed by the Admiralty and Treasury?—Yes, and I am now very frequently employed by them.

360. And have, of course, great experience in everything connected with the building of bridges?—I have had a great deal to do with them, and have now.

361. Mr. *Pellatt.*] You are consulting engineer to the Navigation Committee of the Port of London?—I consider myself to be so; I believe that in everything with regard to which they want the opinion of a consulting engineer, they apply to me.

362. *Chairman.*] Will you be so kind as to name the bridges you are connected with, or have been engaged in?—The nearest bridge to this House that I have built is Vauxhall Bridge, and the highest bridge that I and my partner, Mr. Burges, have designed, is a bridge over the Wear above Sunderland, which is now in the line of the Great Northern Railway, and which, I believe, is about the highest stone bridge in the kingdom. The centre arch of it is 160 feet span, which, I believe, with one exception, is the largest stone arch in Great Britain. The adjoining arch is 144, and there are two arches of 100 feet. The credit of the design is more due to my partner, Mr. Burges, than to me; it is borrowed from a Spanish bridge, the bridge of Alcantara. The most recent bridge that I have had to do with, is one over the Clyde at Glasgow; before that bridge I have had to do with a great many other bridges, which I can enumerate; but as my experience is pretty well known on these matters, perhaps I need not mention any further details.

363. Will you inform the Committee whether you have directed your attention at all to any spot as a proper site for a new bridge in the metropolis?—I have considered the matter generally, not only from having had so much to do with the River Thames, and the bridges upon it, having been employed in almost all of them, but also from having been requested by the Chairman of this Committee to do so. At the same time, as I had no order from the Committee which I was entitled to call a professional order, of course I have not gone into it with that particularity which would justify me in saying that my opinion is a professional one, to the same extent as if I had made special surveys.

364. Do you think that for the present traffic of the metropolis the existing bridges are insufficient?—That is my decided opinion; when I say that I refer to the free bridges only.

365. You refer to London Bridge, Blackfriars Bridge, and Westminster Bridge?—Yes.

366. How do you suggest to remedy that evil?—I think the immediate remedy is to make those bridges that are now toll-paying bridges free; my reason for saying so is this, that the collective width of road of all the *free* bridges over the River Thames is 138 feet; London Bridge being 53½ feet, Blackfriars Bridge 42, and Westminster Bridge 42½ feet. And that if a reference be had to the capabilities of the present bridges, and also to the alterations that are about to take place in them, the collective width of thoroughfare might be increased 150 per cent. of its present amount; that in place of 138 feet we might have 323 feet.

367. How do you get that result?—London Bridge is 53½, Southwark Bridge 42, Blackfriars, if widened, which is hypothetical, I have supposed to be 70; Waterloo, 42; Westminster, when widened, as contracted for, 80; and Vauxhall 36, making all together 323 feet.

368. You think that the adding that increased width in the various bridges would greatly facilitate the traffic?—There can be no doubt of it.

369. Sufficient for the present time?—I do not know whether that will be sufficient for the present demand; experience would test this.

370. You think decidedly that before more bridges be built over the Thames, which causes not only a heavy expenditure, but also to some extent from the piles, an impediment to the navigation, the accommodation that could be afforded by the united width of all the bridges ought to be tried?—Yes, that is my decided opinion; and whereas, as you are aware, to build new bridges would not only be a work of great expense, but also a work of time, the remedy that will be afforded by making all the present bridges free would be immediate, for although it will take some time to rebuild Westminster Bridge, and widen it, and to alter Blackfriars Bridge, the others, viz., Southwark, Waterloo, and Vauxhall, could be opened at once.

J. Walker, Esq.

9 May 1854.

371. Taking those at their present width, and converting the others, now toll-paying bridges, companies' bridges, into free bridges, would you get at least double the present accommodation?—Yes, nearly double, without any widening of the present bridges.

372. A very important question arises from your suggestion, as to how the money necessary to effect these alterations, and to purchase those bridges, which are now liable to toll, is to be raised?—As to Westminster Bridge, from what source the money is to be raised is not a matter for my inquiry, but that I presume is understood Blackfriars Bridge is in such a state that no doubt something will be done to it. The other bridges are built, and it would be undoubtedly to the interest of the companies to sell those bridges at a much less price than that for which new bridges could be built, and at a much less price than the bridges cost in building, for two reasons; one is, that their present revenue would be a guide or datum to start from, by which I apprehend they would be paid, although I do not think the question ought to be confined to the present revenue. Another reason is, that the sum which the party purchasing would be likely to pay would be very much less, without doubt, than the building of new bridges would cost. Again, if it should be resolved to build new bridges, and to make those bridges free, it is very evident that the value of the present companies' bridges would, to the companies, be amazingly reduced. Looking, therefore, either to the interest of the companies, or to the public interest, I say again, that before new bridges are built it would be desirable to take means to make all the present bridges toll free.

373. How then would you propose to raise the money to purchase them; do you think that people in the vicinity of these bridges all throughout the metropolis would bear a rate for such an accommodation?—No individuals or parties will bear rates if they can avoid them; but if new bridges were built to give the same accommodation that the present companies' bridges give, they would cost a great deal of money; the money must come from some source, and a less sum of money coming from the same source would purchase the present bridges. I am myself interested in that respect, as I am a considerable proprietor in most of the bridges; in Vauxhall and Waterloo, and to a small extent in Southwark, and should be very glad to have all risk and doubt as to value taken off my hands by parties willing to pay me a fair and liberal price. Again, I think that if a small tax were paid upon property within a certain radius of the centre of London, the amount would be so small as to be a matter of comparatively little importance to the rate-payers, who again would save it in another way, because those who cross the River Thames by those bridges, in place of paying tolls would pay the whole off by a rate; and moreover, every article which passes over those bridges, and is consumed by the inhabitants of London, now contributes of course, though in a very small degree, to pay the present tolls, because the price of the articles they consume includes the expense of the tolls. I suppose that, as to Blackfriars Bridge, which is a City bridge entirely, the Corporation would bear the expense of improving it; but I cannot say as to that, it is not my department.

374. Is not that remark also applicable to Southwark Bridge; is not that within the City limits, and would not it therefore be a charge upon the Corporation?—It is within the City limits, and if the Corporation were bound at their own expense to build a new bridge to compete with Southwark Bridge, the one being free and the other a toll bridge, I should say, as a matter of economy, that the City had very much better buy Southwark Bridge, and make it toll free.

375. Have you made any calculation as to the amount of rate that would be necessary to carry out your scheme, and also as to the area over which that rate should extend?—I have said before, that taking the centre of London at St. Paul's, I think that the rate should extend over an area of 10 or 20 miles radius, and I have added that I think that the amount to be paid would be very small for each individual; but I should say again, that I do not pretend to give an opinion as to where the money is to come from for building new bridges or buying old ones; I know, however, that it is not likely that any private companies will be induced to build two or three new bridges, as the present bridges are losing concerns, with the exception, perhaps, of Vauxhall. The Committee are, perhaps, aware that Vauxhall Bridge was built out of the remains of what was intended to be a very expensive bridge, and therefore I am not quite sure that it

is

57

is remunerative; but speaking of the actual cost only, this bridge does pay. It pays very well just now, and that is a proof to me, that if the bridge were open to the public the thoroughfare of Vauxhall Bridge would be very great.

376. You suggest an area of 10 or 20 miles; if you extend the area of taxation to 10 miles, I apprehend that all the bridges within the 10 miles would be liable to redemption?—Without doubt they would apply for it; I have thought that if you wish to give immediate relief to the public, the companies would consent to let the bridges be open at once, say for a year, in order to give the authorities (the City or the counties or the Government) opportunity of seeing, before they purchased them, what relief that measure would give to the present over-crowded traffic upon the other bridges.

377. You would, in fact, let them free altogether, to try an experiment?—Just so; obliging myself to sell them afterwards, if the Government or the City, or any other parties desired to have them.

378. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] When you say that you would let the bridges be opened, you do not mean that you have any power over those bridges, but merely that it is your opinion that the companies ought to do so?—I said before that I was a proprietor in the three companies' bridges.

379. As a proprietor merely, you have no power to influence the directors, or the body of shareholders; are you not aware that an application has been made to some of the bridges for the purpose of urging them to do this, in order to ascertain the future benefits of opening the bridges, and they have absolutely refused to do so?—If so, I think they are wrong, but I don't know the particulars. There is this to be said; if either the public on the one side, or the proprietors of the bridges on the other side, were blind enough to their own interests not to see, and adopt that proposition, that is, supposing my opinion to be correct, you have through Parliament the power of making both do what is proper, and certainly the proprietors of those bridges, if the matter were looked at fairly, would see that it was to their interest to sell their bridges for very much less than new bridges will cost; and on the other hand it would, perhaps, be cruel also on the part of the public to erect new free bridges which would render their bridges worth nothing.

380. *Chairman.*] Do you think that in this neighbourhood it would be desirable to have a new bridge; I do not say at what particular spot; somewhere between Westminster Bridge and Waterloo Bridge, since the space between these two being far too large, and the Suspension Bridge being only for foot passengers, cannot be considered?—I think of all positions, the one which has been named in the question is the most desirable for a new bridge. My notion about it would be to come near or even through Northumberland House and open into Trafalgar-square; that seems to me a very fine opening, although I cannot tell what His Grace the Duke of Northumberland would say to the project. There is a greater distance of the river between Waterloo and Westminster Bridge, without a bridge, than anywhere else lower down; there is a mile between Waterloo Bridge and Westminster Bridge, and none of the other intervals are so great; the distance is three quarters of a mile by water and one mile by the Strand.

381. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do you know anything about the stability of Southwark Bridge?—I do not know excepting from report; it is the only bridge, with the exception of Waterloo, in which I have not been engaged professionally. I have been told that Sir George Rennie has been consulted, and has reported favourably as to its stability.

382. Have you had any conversation with any one who understood the matter, with regard to what it would cost to make the approaches to that bridge convenient for the public?—I should think that the approaches, although not of the best, are by no means bad now, particularly for light traffic. The City has the street superintendence, and, as I think, with great credit to themselves, have opened Cannon-street, and Cannon-street communicating with St. Paul's Churchyard, will give very great facility to the communication over Southwark Bridge; I may say that the opening of Cannon-street is one of the finest improvements that has been made of late years in the City, and I think Southwark Bridge falls very well into it.

383. *Chairman.*] Have you seen the plan suggested by a witness who was examined at the last meeting of the Committee, namely, Mr. Bennoch, for constructing a bridge near St. Paul's?—I have not.

J. Walker, Esq.

9 May 1854.

384. Lord *A. Hervey.*] Have you ever made any calculation as to what would be the expense of buying up the bridges?—No, I have not. It would be very easy for me to calculate what I think the parties might reasonably expect, but I have not made any calculation. Speaking as a shareholder, I may say that I hope the companies will not be blind enough to their own interests to refuse a reasonable offer.

385. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do you know what the Southwark Bridge Company ask for their bridge?—I have heard that they ask 300,000 *l.* for it, and that it cost 700,000 *l.*

386. What is your estimate of the value of it?—I have made no estimate of its value, nor can I.

387. Can you not estimate what it produces at the present moment, and what it would produce as a free bridge; I think those estimates would enable the Committee to form an opinion as to its value?—I presume that to consider only what they make of it now would be rather a narrow way of looking at it, because I apprehend that as the population of London increases, so the toll over Southwark Bridge will increase. I do not know how the fact stands, but I apprehend that the toll has rather tended to increase of late years; what I say is, that as the company have made a bad bargain in building a bridge, they ought to be treated liberally. They have made a fine bridge, on the plans and under the direction of the late Mr. Rennie.

388. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You said, that if other bridges should be rendered necessary, you thought that the value of Southwark Bridge and other toll-paying bridges would be very much deteriorated by their erection?—No doubt.

389. Therefore, seeing there is a necessity for bridge accommodation, there is sure to be a deterioration in the value of these toll-paying bridges?—Yes, if new free bridges be built.

390. If the toll-paying bridges should be insufficient, after all, would it not be better to build first, and buy afterwards?—Without doubt, to build the new bridges first, and buy afterwards, would be the way of reducing very much the value of the present bridges; but I, as a shareholder, should cry out against that; and I should say again that it would be rather hard upon me to oblige me to sell my bridges upon such reduced terms. It would look rather like an act of revenge upon what, I presume, might be considered the exorbitance of the present directors.

391. I dare say you have heard that one of the projected railway companies had agreed to give the sum of 300,000 *l.* for Southwark Bridge?—I have not heard that.

392. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] With regard to any comparison which might be instituted between the Thames and the Seine, as has been done in this room, with respect to the number of bridges that there are in comparison over the Seine and the Thames, is not there a great difference in the navigation of the two rivers?—Yes.

393. Between the two is there not this difference, that it is less obnoxious to navigation to put bridges over the Seine than over the Thames?—Yes; the Seine is a very different river to the Thames, as regards navigation, but I may mention that the width of bridges over the Clyde, in the City of Glasgow, one of which is just finished, is greater than that of free bridges over the River Thames at present, which must show how very inadequate the present free communication over the River Thames is.

394. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Do you think that any great amount of traffic is deterred from going over the bridge at Vauxhall by the amount of the toll?—Yes, I think a great deal of traffic is so deterred; I can bear witness to that myself; for my coachman generally drives me over Westminster Bridge to avoid the toll at Vauxhall; and every gentleman knows that there is nothing so annoying as tolls, even though they are small; it is not only the money you pay, but the stoppage which is caused by it, which is an annoyance. I repeat that a great deal of relief would be given to the public, and a fine experiment made, if all the bridges now existing over the River Thames were thrown open.

395. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] One of the witnesses on a former day, Mr. Lambert Jones, said that he thought it would be good policy on the part of the directors of the bridges, and especially of Southwark Bridge, if they were to open the bridge for one year free, in order to get rid of those prejudices which arise from a turnpike-gate, such as those you have mentioned, and to see what facilities

facilities might be offered by a free bridge; do you think that would be beneficial?—It might, but I think it would be beneficial to the company if the Government, or whoever undertakes it, would pay a sum equal to that which the company now receives in the shape of tolls, and restore the bridge to them in as good a condition as it was when they take it. I think it would be for the interest of the public to do so, and also of the company; but I am so strongly convinced that the experiment would be found to correspond with what I have said, that I should not hesitate at all to give as my opinion that it would be desirable to open all the bridges at once.

396. Mr. Jones stated, that in his opinion it would be no discredit to the judgment of the company if they were to do it without any pay from Government, or from the public?—I think that is asking too much; I think the toll the Southwark Company receive at present is not large; it is about 1,500 *l.* a year; that is no very large sum, and it would appear hard and unjust, as they have expended 700,000 *l.*, and they are receiving only 1,500 *l.*, to ask them to make the bridge toll free even for a year, even although it might be shown to be their interest to do so. My frequent journeys to the coast may be favourable to my health, but I should think it hard if the Government were to assign this as a reason for not allowing me my expenses, and something beyond.

397. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Is the 1,500 *l.* clear of expenses?—It is exclusive of the expenses of collection, as I understand it.

398. And the charges for repairs, and so on?—It is clear of all expenses, as I understand from the secretary.

399. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] The evidence of the witness alluded to is to this effect, that the company would derive a benefit in this way, that they should after that put on a small toll, so as not to choke off the traffic after the end of the year; he said he would throw the bridge open for one year free, in order to coax the traffic over it, and that the traffic being once established, he would then put on a small toll, and thus by that means the experiment would benefit all parties?—I do not agree with that. I think the companies should be compensated, and the bridges afterwards be free.

400. Mr. *Locke.*] Do you think there is a necessity for an increased number of bridges in London?—Yes; I have already said that there being only three bridges which are free bridges, and three bridges which are toll-paying, it would be desirable first of all to try the experiment of making them either free for a time or in perpetuity, before any new bridges were built. And I have said that the new Westminster Bridge being intended to be 80 feet in width, and Blackfriars being probably increased in width also, I have calculated that the width of the bridges, including Vauxhall, would be 2¼ times the width of the present free bridges, that is to say, 150 per cent. more than it now is.

401. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You anticipate a much greater traffic over Vauxhall Bridge, if it is thrown open; is it capable of being widened to meet that traffic; it is very narrow now; about 36 feet, is it not?—Yes. I do not think that Vauxhall Bridge is likely, unless London extends very much in that direction, to become a bridge of much heavy traffic, and I think it is for ten times the present traffic wide enough. Moreover, the piers are so constructed that it would not be a difficult matter to throw out a projection on each side, and put up another parapet; but I think it would be many years before that was required.

402. Do you think that that is a feasible scheme with respect to London Bridge?—No; London Bridge being a stone bridge, although I have no doubt that it could be done as regards solidity, I do not think it could be done without hurting the architecture of the bridge.

403. You did not see the model of this scheme that was exhibited to this Committee?—I did not.

404. Lord *A. Hervey.*] On which bridge is the great amount of traffic most felt?—London Bridge decidedly, and therefore in that respect Southwark Bridge would be most important to throw open.

405. More important than Waterloo?—Yes, I think so.

406. Is not a great amount of inconvenience now felt in the excess of traffic, owing to the narrow approaches?—It is so.

407. Would not it be more convenient to have Waterloo Bridge thrown open instead of Southwark?—It appears to me that if Southwark Bridge were thrown open a large amount of traffic, particularly light traffic, would go over Southwark Bridge, and would, as I have said, in going northward and westward, find

J. Walker, Esq.

9 May 1854.

its way through the widened Cannon-street, and in that way relieve Cheapside and the Poultry.

408. If Waterloo Bridge were thrown open, that would relieve Fleet-street?—Yes. I have said that to try the experiment fairly, all the bridges should be opened.

409. If only one were thrown open, which would you think the most important?—I should say, still speaking off-hand, that as London Bridge is the most oppressed with traffic, the most immediate relief would be given by opening Southwark Bridge; I wish I could say either Vauxhall or Waterloo, for I have a much greater interest in both these bridges than in Southwark; but to try the experiment fairly, and on behalf of the interests of the public and of the proprietors, all should be open. To open Vauxhall would much relieve Westminster.

410. Mr. *Locke*.] Have you heard that the approaches of Southwark Bridge ought to be improved?—I think it would be desirable; the inclination of the Middlesex approach seems to me, in driving over the bridge, to be too steep, notwithstanding which I always use it in going to the City and coming from it. I live in Great George-street, Westminster, and I find it the easiest and best way into the centre of the city is to go over Westminster Bridge, and back by Southwark Bridge.

411. Have you formed any opinion as to the cost of making the approaches on the Middlesex side?—Looking at it off-hand, I presume they might be made better at a comparatively small expense; but that would not be an effectual improvement. To effectually improve the approach, of course, would be to make an archway, as was done at London Bridge, and pass the traffic under it; but that would be a very expensive affair now. The approaches to Blackfriars Bridge have been very much improved indeed, under our direction, and no one now finds fault with them.

412. You have not formed any opinion as to what the improvement in Southwark Bridge would cost?—No; if it were such an improvement as I refer to as having been made at Blackfriars Bridge, the amount would not be great.

413. You cannot say how much?—No.

414. Mr. Alderman *Challis*.] Is it possible?—I do not think, without inconvenience, it would be possible to make it as good as it is at Blackfriars; but I think that by raising Upper Thames-street a few feet, and also raising the approaches to the bridge, it might be improved, but still not to make it so good as Blackfriars.

415. Lord *R. Grosvenor*.] What is the gradient of Blackfriars Bridge, as compared with the present gradient of Westminster Bridge; which has the steepest gradient?—Westminster has the steeper, being one in 22, while Blackfriars is one in 25, taking the steepest length in each case.

416. Can you compare also Southwark Bridge with Blackfriars Bridge; can you say which is the steepest?—Southwark Bridge on the Middlesex side is the steeper, being one in 20, while Blackfriars is one in 25, which is the same inclination as upon a length of the approach to London Bridge. The approach to Southwark on the City side has the greatest inclination of any bridge now in London, but is very little worse than Westminster.

417. Mr. Alderman *Challis*.] You say that though Southwark Bridge might be greatly improved, it would be almost impossible, with the same amount of money as was laid out upon Blackfriars Bridge, to make Southwark as good?—I think it would, without injuring the property close to it. I did not say greatly improved.

418. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt*.] Going on the principle of throwing an arch over Thames-street?—That would make it much better than Blackfriars; the hollow over Fish-street Hill was remedied by an arch, but that was very expensive, and could not easily be done in this case.

419. Lord *R. Grosvenor*.] Are you accustomed to make calculations as to what the cost of making approaches to bridges is likely to be?—I am; but of course the cost depends upon many circumstances.

420. All engineers who are employed in bridge making are generally required to furnish an estimate to the Committee, or the individuals who have the building of the bridge, stating what the bridge would cost, and the approaches?—Yes.

J. Walker, Esq

9 May 1854.

421. You think the present approach to Southwark Bridge bad?—Yes, on the Middlesex side.

422. Do you call them good on the other side?—They are much better on the other side; they are not objectionable on the Surrey side, being one in 30½.

423. You conceive that if that bridge were toll free, a very large amount of traffic would pass over it?—Yes, of all traffic, but particularly light traffic.

424. Do you think the approach on the Surrey side good enough for the amount of traffic?—I do not think it would be objected to. It is better than Blackfriars.

425. Can you give the Committee any rough guess of what the cost of the improvement would be on the Middlesex side?—So far as it could be carried on without prejudice to the property there, I should apprehend a very few thousand pounds would do.

426. No alteration could be made without purchasing the property?—Some alteration could be made without damaging the property. We made all the improvements in the approach to Blackfriars Bridge without paying anything in the shape of compensation, or making any purchase.

427. Do you know, from your own knowledge, that the improvements could be made which would render it fairly sufficient for the traffic for a small sum? —On the Middlesex side I do not think they could much improve the inclination without a considerable outlay, but the Committee will observe that it is now only 1 in 20, therefore not much steeper than Westminster, which is 1 in 22; and that a length in the approach to London Bridge is 1 in 25. Ludgate-hill is 1 in 27, and the Southwark Bridge approach is short compared with Ludgate-hill. I may add, that Vauxhall is only 1 in 35.

428. Have you ever turned your attention to making an improved communication between the Surrey side of Waterloo Bridge and Union-street, Borough, so as to allow the traffic to pass from the Surrey side of the bridge to the railway station?—I have made no calculations about it, but I do not know any improvement which would be more desirable than that. There should then be a good communication all the way from Westminster Bridge to London Bridge on the Surrey side.

429. Can you, from the knowledge which you possess of these subjects, give the Committee any information as to the probable cost of such an improvement? —I could not, it is more a surveyor's duty.

430. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] If Southwark Bridge could be made a free bridge, even with the approaches in their present state, would not it greatly facilitate the traffic, and to some considerable extent relieve the pressure on London Bridge?—As regards light traffic I think it would materially, and in that way it would leave London Bridge more free for the heavy traffic. It might not greatly relieve London Bridge of very heavy traffic, but it would relieve London Bridge of much of the traffic by light carriages, and I think that, upon the whole, it would be a very great public convenience.

John Robinson M'Clean, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. R. M'Clean, Esq.

9 May 1854.

431. *Chairman.*] ARE you a Civil Engineer?—I am.

432. You have been connected with some of the great lines of railway?—I have.

433. Have you directed your attention to the improvements in the metropolis generally?—Yes, for many years past I have directed a good deal of attention to that subject.

434. Have you considered the subject of increased accommodation by the different London bridges?—Yes; in projecting lines of railway into the metropolis, and also in designing a system of sewerage, I have considered the question of improving the thoroughfares of the metropolis.

435. Are you of opinion that the present traffic is badly conducted by the existing bridges?—Yes; I think at some of the bridges there is a great deal of cross traffic which interferes very much with the proper traffic of the bridge.

436. Sir *J. Shelley.*] What do you mean by cross traffic?—If you take Westminster Bridge, for example, you will find there are six different currents of traffic passing Great George-street; there is the traffic between Charing Cross and the Elephant and Castle; there is the traffic between Pimlico and Lambeth,

J. R. M'Lean, Esq.

9 May 1854.

and there is the traffic to the Houses of Parliament, all meeting at the end of Great George-street, and causing great confusion and danger at that crossing.

437. *Chairman.*] How would you suggest to improve the bridge accommodation of London?—Having studied the traffic a good deal, it seems to me that the only way is to divert it as much as possible; widening the bridges alone would not accomplish the object of facilitating the course of traffic, you must endeavour as much as possible to separate it into different streams.

438. How would you accomplish that?—By building two bridges instead of rebuilding Westminster Bridge, the site of which is badly chosen, on account of the traffic from so many different directions meeting at a point, and intersecting one another. In a few years after the opening of the Crystal Palace, I believe it will be nearly impossible for people to pass between Parliament-street and Westminster Hall. At the present time you can scarcely accomplish it at certain periods of the day, and for children and old people it is often attended with great danger. I have seen persons knocked down at that place.

439. I believe that you have prepared a plan with reference to the improvements of this thoroughfare?—Yes; but I have understood since I first mentioned the matter that the contracts have been let for Westminster Bridge. My proposition was to build two bridges in place of one, so as to divide the lines of communication over the Thames more equally, and at the same time to separate the traffic I have spoken of.

Vide Plan (I.) at the end.

440. Will you submit your plan to the Committee? (*The same was handed in to the Committee.*)—The plan shows one new bridge, with road approaches commencing at Charing Cross, close to the Duke of Northumberland's property (but laid out so as not to interfere with the house), and terminating in the Westminster Bridge-road at its junction with St. George's-road. This road will shorten by about one quarter of a mile the distance between Charing Cross and the Elephant and Castle; and will also shorten the distance between Charing Cross and the important stations of the South Western and South Eastern Railways nearly half a mile, and will thus divert the present traffic which passes over Westminster Bridge by a shorter and much more convenient route.

Again, by widening King-street, the traffic which at the present time goes to Pimlico through Parliament-street, would be diverted at once into the Victoria-road.

The object of the other bridge, which is shown placed at the south end of the the Houses of Parliament, near the end of Great College-street, is to give a direct line of communication between Pimlico and the Elephant and Castle about a quarter of a mile shorter than the present route. It would be equally near to all parts of the Borough, and by having two bridges you would get completely free of the cross traffic I have spoken of.

441. Sir *J. Shelley.*] You propose to pull down Westminster Bridge altogether?—To remove it altogether.

442. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Would the approaches to your bridges be expensive?—Not at all; the property from Charing Cross to the river is of very little value.

443. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] It would still be a good thing to have these two bridges even in addition to Westminster Bridge?—Undoubtedly; but Westminster Bridge is objectionable on account of the injury which it does to the whole of the property about the Houses of Parliament.

444. Would not the people coming along Great George-street be very much impeded if they were obliged to go to the south or to the east in order to cross the river?—From Victoria-street the distance would be exactly the same to the bridge road as it is at present; and I propose to alter Great George-street, as shown upon the plan.

445. How would you get there; would you not have to come round by Canning's monument?—No; by widening College-street and some of the unimportant streets beyond, which must be done, independently of any plan of mine, the best communication would be established between Victoria-street and Lambeth.

446. Lord *A. Hervey.*] Would you still think it important to have a bridge at Charing Cross when this bridge is built?—Yes, to relieve Westminster Bridge of the omnibus traffic to the Elephant and Castle.

447. Mr. *Locke.*] You would abstract the traffic from the Elephant and Castle to prevent it coming up Parliament-street?—Yes; and the only way is to divert it

it at Charing Cross. It would not answer to take it over Hungerford Bridge if widened, as there would then be cross lines of traffic at the end of Duncannon-street, in the Strand, as inconvenient as those which now exist at the end of Parliament-street.

448. Do you think that this bridge would take the traffic to Charing Cross on this side of the water?—Yes.

449. *Chairman.*] Have you made any estimate of the expense of building the two bridges that you suggest?—I have, but it is a very rough one.

450. What are your figures?—About 1,500,000 *l.* for the two, including the approaches.

451. Assuming that your plans had been suggested before Westminster Bridge had been contracted for, would the property available for that structure have had to bear this additional expense?—No.

452. Mr. *Locke.*] Did you ever propose this plan before?—I never brought it forward before. I have considered it for a long time.

453. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] By the time you had the plan completed, you found it was too late; that the contract for the new Westminster Bridge was taken?—Yes, and that it was too late to suggest any alteration of Westminster Bridge.

454. This scheme of yours has been projected some time?—Yes.

455. Before even the new Westminster Bridge was determined on?—Yes; but I was unwell at the time Westminster Bridge was under consideration, or I should have mentioned it at that time.

456. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Can you tell us the estimated cost of Charing Cross Bridge?—I have made the estimate of the approaches from the expense of going through Birmingham, and other towns; but it is not sufficiently in detail to lay before the Committee.

457. About half the estimate you have made for the two bridges would belong to Charing Cross Bridge?—Rather more than that.

458. *Chairman.*] Have you any knowledge of the other bridges in the metropolis?—Only a general knowledge.

459. You have confined your observation to Westminster Bridge?—Yes. I have long felt the annoyance of the crossing between Great George-street and Westminster Bridge, which has induced me to suggest a mode of getting rid of it.

460. Was not this plan in connexion with some general improvements in this part of London?—Yes; I propose to convert the whole space between Charing Cross and the south end of the Houses of Parliament into a site for public buildings, as shown upon the plan now before you.

461. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Your estimate of 1,500,000 *l.* is very large; does not it also include metropolitan improvements?—Yes; for forming the roads up to a certain point in connexion with the bridges.

462. Lord *A. Hervey.*] If you were obliged to choose between throwing open Waterloo Bridge and building a new bridge at Charing Cross, which do you think the most important?—Building a new one at Charing Cross.

463. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Supposing there were a toll put on the new bridge at Charing Cross, what would you think of that?—It would be highly objectionable.

464. Would it be more desirable to build a new bridge at Charing Cross, with a toll, than to throw open the Waterloo Bridge?—I can scarcely estimate which would be the most desirable if there were a toll on the Charing Cross Bridge.

465. Mr. *Locke.*] Charing Cross is a large and central place, and the traffic meets there from all directions, and therefore you consider that it is a good point at which to have a bridge?—I think it is the best place you could find.

466. Any diversion of the traffic from Charing Cross, either by means of Westminster Bridge, or the Strand, and Waterloo Bridge, would be a great inconvenience?—Yes.

467. And therefore you think building a bridge at Charing Cross would be desirable?—Yes, for the traffic between Charing Cross and the Elephant and Castle.

468. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Have you ever considered any plan for providing funds for this undertaking?—Yes; in the way the funds are raised out of which county bridges are usually built, by putting a rate on the counties of Middlesex and Surrey. I have found that 44,000 *l.* a year would only be a penny in the

J. R. M'Clean, Esq.
9 May 1854.

pound upon the poor-rate of those two counties, and it is the usual mode of providing for the construction of bridges throughout England. Both counties will be highly benefited by the proposed bridges, and I think an additional penny in the pound would meet with very slight opposition.

469. *Chairman.*] In that case you would question the wisdom of opening the toll-paying bridges to the county?—No; I should propose doing that also.

470. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do not your remarks apply to the new bridges only?—I should apply the same principle to all.

471. In addition to building the two new ones you would throw open to the public all that are paying toll?—Yes, as the greatest benefit you could possibly confer on each of the counties.

472. Do you think 44,000 *l.* a year would meet the expense of that scheme?—No; I said that a penny in the pound would raise 44,000 *l.* a year.

473. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Which would represent something like a million of money in capital?—Yes.

474. Your calculation is made upon the expense of the two new bridges, not upon that of throwing open to the public those which now pay tolls?—I referred only to the mode of raising funds.

475. What is that to meet?—To build the new bridges, and open the present ones. I think that twopence in the pound might open all the bridges.

476. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Seeing that a penny in the pound would produce 44,000 *l.* a year, there could be no great difficulty in carrying out your suggestion?—No, nor in opening the existing bridges, as each county would benefit by it.

477. *Chairman.*] You prefer having an additional number of bridges to widening the existing bridges?—Yes; if they were all opened it would not remove the necessity of building a bridge at Charing Cross, because none of them could receive the traffic in an equally convenient way.

478. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Do you agree with the opinion of the last witness that the fact of there being a toll upon a bridge turns the traffic in another direction?—Yes.

479. Supposing the tolls were taken off Waterloo Bridge, do not you think that the portion of the traffic which now turns either to London or to Westminster Bridge would then go to Waterloo Bridge?—Undoubtedly, a portion of it.

480. And, therefore, as that is much more within reach as regards funds, than building a new bridge, do not you think that it would be better to try that first, to see what the effect would be?—I do not think it would have much effect in relieving the great traffic over Westminster Bridge.

481. Do not you think that a portion of the traffic which now comes through Westminster would be diverted to Waterloo, which would have the effect of relieving Westminster Bridge to that extent?—Yes, to that extent.

482. Mr. *Locke.*] And it would have the effect of blocking up the Strand to the same extent?—Yes, and also at a very inconvenient place at this moment.

Samuel Bateson, Esq., called in, and Examined.

S. Bateson, Esq.

483. *Chairman.*] ARE you an Engineer and Architect?—Yes.

484. Have you given your attention to the subject of bridges in the metropolis?—Yes, I have particularly considered Blackfriars Bridge.

485. At whose suggestion did you undertake that?—I was led to think of it by having first made a design for Westminster Bridge, and I was led to that by having made previous designs for bridges. The subject was given by the Society of Arts some time ago, and I sent in a design to them which I afterwards endeavoured to adapt for Westminster Bridge, and submitted it to the Committee, but the design having been decided upon for that, I have endeavoured to adapt it to this.

486. Your present proposition is to adapt your plan to the existing bridge?—Yes.

487. At what expense?—Retaining the three arches on either side, the expense would be 125,000 *l.*, but calculating the whole bridge, I suppose it would come to about 300,000 *l.*

488. You are aware that Blackfriars Bridge has been reported upon as unsafe, and as needing to be taken down and rebuilt?—Yes; I was not aware of that till

I was

S. Bateson, Esq.

9 May 1854.

I was informed by a Member that at a meeting of the Bridge-house Committee of the City of London, there was some information received that the foundations of Blackfriars Bridge were unsound.

489. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What does your plan propose to accomplish; does it propose to widen the bridge?—The lower design on this plan (*exhibiting a Plan to the Committee*) shows the widening of the old part of the bridge, and the renewal of the remainder; the upper design shows a plan for a new part altogether.

490. What increase of width have you?—The new part of this design is 70 feet wide; but in the plan for a new bridge I have here I have made it wider still.

491. What is the width of it now?—Forty-two feet.

492. You have made it 70?—Yes, but I have made it even wider than that in another plan.

495. You increase the width 28 feet?—Yes, by that plan.

494. At an expense of 125,000 *l.*?—Yes, retaining three arches on either side, if they can be retained.

495. *Chairman.*] What would you construct it of?—Of iron, with stone piers.

496. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do you mean an entirely new bridge?—Yes, if the other part cannot be retained.

497. That is to come to 300,000 *l.*?—Yes; but then the bridge would be wider still.

498. Have you taken in the approaches?—Yes; there would be no occasion for being at any expense with respect to them.

499. Is it wider than it is proposed to make Westminster Bridge?—I do not know the width which they propose for that. Since I was informed that three of the arches on either side of Blackfriars Bridge were defective, I have prepared the design afresh, and have designed an entirely new bridge, on a plan which would make the width 100 feet, and giving two roadways of 35 feet each. I have prepared this since I was informed that the Committee had found that the foundations of the arches were unsound.

500. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] As the first arch is sound as regards its superstructure, I suppose you do not propose to interfere with the foundations, is not that so?—Except the three defective arches; I remove the three defective arches, and throw the iron work across.

501. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Are the others supposed to be secure?—I cannot speak from actual survey, but I have seen no defect in the line of the bridge.

502. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Did I hear you say that you understood from some one or other that three of the arches of Blackfriars Bridge were defective?—That is generally known; they are at present shored up.

503. Where did you get your information from?—From seeing the bridge, three of the arches are shored up, and you see that the line of the bridge waves.

504. Have you any superior source of information to that which the Bridge-house Committee have?—None.

505. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] It would seem that you have got the information from the Bridge-house Committee?—I was informed by the Bridge Committee that the foundations of the remaining piers were defective, and of course I supposed that they had some information which I was not acquainted with. If it is not so, my former plan will remain practicable.

506. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] The piers on this plan are merely ornamental, are they not?—Not altogether; they form part of the construction.

507. Is the upper part of any use?—That, as a counterbalancing weight, forms part of the construction.

508. Do you know what the gradient is on the Middlesex side of Blackfriars Bridge?—No, I do not exactly.

509. How is that in comparison with Westminster; greater or less?—I do not know; I think I might say it is greater.

Thomas Page, Esq., called in; and Examined.

T. Page, Esq.

510. *Chairman.*] I THINK you are a Civil Engineer?—Yes.

511. You have an appointment under the Board of Works?—Yes.

512. Have you given your attention to the metropolitan bridges?—I have; perhaps

T. Page, Esq.

9 May 1854.

perhaps it may assist the Committee if I lay before them a plan of London, showing the sites of the bridges.—(*The same was handed in.*)

513. Are you of opinion that the traffic of London is so great that it requires to build other bridges?—I am.

514. Where would you suggest that they should be built?—I think the two points where bridges would be most essential for relieving the traffic of the west end of London, are Charing Cross and the Horseferry; and with regard to the City, it would be a question of expense, whether it would be better to build a new bridge (as proposed by Mr. Bennoch), near St. Paul's, or to purchase Southwark Bridge, and make better approaches to Blackfriars Bridge and Southwark Bridge from the west end of Cheapside.

515. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do you think that Southwark Bridge, upon its present gradient, could ever be made a convenient bridge to pass from the Middlesex side of the river to the Surrey side?—I think if Southwark Bridge were in the hands of the Corporation of London, they would soon improve it by altering the gradient in Thames-street, and on the Surrey side it could easily be improved in its gradient; at any rate they could give Southwark Bridge as good a gradient as Blackfriars.

516. Confining yourself to the western part of the metropolis, you have said that it would be desirable to have one new bridge at Charing Cross, and another near the Horseferry; would not this interfere with the building of the present Westminster Bridge; or would you have that altered?—In consideration of the increasing importance of Westminster, I may say that Westminster itself would be entitled to a bridge on the present site, and that the increasing population of Pimlico would require a bridge at the Horseferry; and with regard to the bridge at Charing Cross, that is certainly a metropolitan requirement, for the great line of traffic between Charing Cross and the Elephant and Castle on the Surrey side would be materially altered and improved by a bridge in that locality.

517. The Suspension Bridge would not be sufficient?—I think that the Suspension Bridge might be made into a carriage bridge. I think it was a radical mistake of the promoters in the first instance to confine it to a foot bridge.

518. Have you seen the plan of Mr. M'Clean; his proposed bridges are at the places you pointed out; viz., one at the Horseferry and one at Charing Cross?—I surveyed a line for a bridge on this plan, near to the Houses of Parliament; I communicated with Sir Charles Barry upon it, and he objected to the bridge coming so near to the Victoria Tower; Mr. M'Clean's plan, I should say, would be objectionable architecturally, as being a skew bridge over the river.

519-20. You have a plan of your own, have you not?—Yes; this is a plan (*producing the same*) which was made by me for Her Majesty's Commissioners for Metropolitan Improvements, showing bridges at Charing-cross and the Horseferry. The idea for a bridge near the Victoria Tower was on the basis of Westminster Bridge being dispensed with.

521. That seems to be a little askew?—Not with regard to the line of embankment. The plan laid down here for the bridge at Charing Cross is taken from the Parliamentary plan for a bridge, which the Government proposed in 1844. This (*referring to another plan*) is one of the Parliamentary plans, and it shows to advantage the approaches. The bridge at Charing Cross, as laid down in this plan, would have an approach from Charing Cross, of which approach the Nelson column would have formed the centre.

522. *Chairman.*] That plan would not interfere with Northumberland-house, would it?—No; it leaves Northumberland-house on one side. It is evident that if the bridge were connected by one approach with Whitehall-place, and another for heavy traffic at Scotland-yard (which could be easily obtained by removing one or two houses), then the line of the great approach to the Nelson column might remain open for future execution.

523. When were those plans deposited?—In 1844. From the Surrey side there is a branch street running to the Westminster-road, and I believe that the objection which induced the Government not to persevere with the scheme was, the damage it would do to the property on the Surrey side of the river on the line of Bridge-street.

524. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] That objection would not exist if a bridge was made at Westminster also?—No.

525. You think that bridges are required at Westminster, at Charing Cross, and at the Horseferry-road?—I do.

526. Lord *A. Hervey.*] What is the distance from the Horseferry to Charing Cross?—The distance from Westminster Bridge to the bridge at the Horseferry would be 2,300 feet, and the distance from Westminster Bridge to the proposed bridge at Charing Cross would be 1,700 feet, making the whole distance between the bridges about 4,000 feet.

527. *Chairman.*] Have you calculated the expense of constructing those two bridges?—I made a calculation at the time for the Charing Cross Bridge, the estimate for which amounted to 150,000 *l.*, exclusive of the purchase of property for the approaches, and I estimate the bridge at the Horseferry could be constructed for something like 100,000 *l.*

528. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Are the approaches on both sides of an expensive character?—They are not; the approach to the Horseferry could be made at right angles with the bridge, so as not to interfere with the property in the neighbourhood, and there are very great facilities for coming into the Lambeth-road on the other side. Then, at Charing Cross the approaches would not be very expensive; the approach from Whitehall Place would deteriorate the value of two or three houses at the river end, but would entail no further cost, and the approach from Scotland-yard would only require three houses to be removed.

529. By this plan you do not propose to take down Northumberland-house?—No, the road runs on the south-west side of it; I have sections of the approaches (*producing the same*) made from accurate levels, which were continued along the streets leading to the proposed bridge.

530. Will you hand them in to the Committee?—(*The same were handed in.*)

531. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] The roads marked on the plan are existing roads?—Yes, but now circumstances being changed, by Westminster Bridge being to be rebuilt, all the lines of approach would not be required.

532. Lord *A. Hervey.*] The accommodation for the traffic at this end of the road is not very good at present?—No; and the advantage of a bridge would be very great, since by it you could go almost in a straight line from Charing Cross to the Elephant and Castle, and relieve the traffic passing down Whitehall and over Westminster Bridge.

533. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] What, then, is the necessity for the Horseferry-road Bridge; if there were no Westminster Bridge, I suppose you think that the two would be almost indispensable, but whereas as Westminster Bridge is now contracted for, do you think it still necessary to have the Horseferry Bridge as well?—If you look at this plan (*a plan being shown to the Committee*) you will see that there is a great district in Pimlico which would be confined to toll bridges, Vauxhall Bridge, the New Chelsea Bridge, and Battersea Bridge, none of which are in the line of the main thoroughfares on the Surrey side; whereas the Committee will see by the plan that the Horseferry Bridge would be on a most important line for the direct traffic.

534. Which necessity arises partly from the fact that they have not got Vauxhall and Battersea Bridge free?—Yes, partly.

535. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Supposing those two bridges to be toll-free, would not that meet the demands of the traffic without a new bridge at the Horseferry-road?—If Vauxhall Bridge were free, there would be less necessity for the Horseferry Bridge, but it is probable that to make Vauxhall Bridge free, you would have to expend a greater sum than the expense of this new bridge.

536. You think it would cost less money to build the bridge at the Horseferry than to obtain possession of Vauxhall Bridge for the purpose of making it free, and to make such alterations as would fit it for the increased traffic?—I think so.

537. It is narrow in some places, is it not?—It is. I have brought here a drawing which contains sections of all the bridges in London, and which gives the particulars of their widths, &c.; Vauxhall Bridge is 36 feet wide, the road is 24 feet, the footpaths on each side taking the rest. On these sections I have also laid down the gradients of all the bridges. The drawing was made for a report to the Chief Commissioner of Her Majesty's Works, but I am permitted to leave it for the use of the Committee.

538. Can you tell us the gradient of Blackfriars Bridge as compared with Westminster Bridge?—The gradient of Blackfriars Bridge is 1 in 24, and the

T. Page, Esq.

9 May 1854.

steepest gradient of the present Westminster Bridge is 1 in 22; the steepest gradient on the proposed New Westminster Bridge is 1 in 54.

539. At present the gradient of Westminster Bridge is a little steeper than that of Blackfriars?—Yes, it is rather steeper.

540. Mr. Alderman *Challis*.] How would the gradient be in comparison with Southwark Bridge?—In regard to Southwark Bridge, the gradient on the Middlesex side is 1 in 17 ¼.

541. Sir *J. Shelley*.] As regards Vauxhall Bridge, although it is narrower than the other bridges, is not it almost more than sufficient for the traffic that goes over it now?—It is.

542. Supposing it to be toll-free, do you think that the traffic brought upon it would be so enormous that it would be insufficient for that traffic?—It would be sufficient for years to come, and supposing it toll-free, it offers facilities for being widened for foot passengers, thus throwing the whole bridge open for the carriage traffic, and making increased accommodation on the sides for foot passengers. I do not know what the strength of the bridge is, but I conclude it would bear that addition.

543. I understand you to say, that from a return which you have received, you believe that the receipts of Vauxhall Bridge are so great that you do not doubt that the expense of buying up the tolls would be almost equal to building a new bridge?—Yes.

544. I presume the effect of building a new bridge, toll-free, competing with Vauxhall Bridge, would be immediately to damage the Vauxhall Bridge Company?—It would reduce the income. The Vauxhall Bridge Company would then adopt the plan which the Waterloo Bridge Company have adopted, viz., that of reducing their tolls. If you buy up the present toll bridges you must spend a considerable sum of money, and, as far as the public are concerned, my opinion is you would employ that money more beneficially for the public in building new bridges.

545. Mr. *Wilkinson*.] You would then have the accommodation of additional bridges?—Yes, and would retain the accommodation of the present toll bridges.

546. Sir *J. Shelley*.] Do you think that supposing new bridges were built at the public expense, they being toll-free, anybody would go over those bridges for which tolls were charged?—Yes; I think that all people with light carriages, and especially with hired carriages, would be always willing to pay a reasonable toll to save a quarter of a mile.

547. Mr. *Wilkinson*.] Are the Committee to understand you to say, that in your opinion, taking the case of the Southwark Bridge, for which 300,000 *l.* is demanded, it would be cheaper to build a new bridge than to buy Southwark Bridge for the public?—Taking a view of the case generally, I think, with regard to Southwark Bridge, that considering the expensive nature of the property in the line of the proposed new bridge, it would be cheaper to buy Southwark Bridge than to purchase the property and build another; but, at the same time, it appears to me it would be of much greater public advantage to build a new bridge there, in the direct line of traffic, than to purchase Southwark Bridge.

548. Mr. Alderman *Challis*.] Looking to the City side of the question, is it your opinion that a road from Doctors' Commons to St. Paul's is the right line to give relief to London Bridge?—I think it is a very good line; but there might be circumstances connected with the value of property there which might influence the question of the site of the bridge.

549. The Committee have been informed that the value of the property on the Surrey side is extremely low, and that it requires improvements, and would be very much benefited by having a good bridge there. Is that your opinion also?—There can be no doubt of it; I know that Mr. Bennoch estimated the bridge at 120,000 *l.*, and he seems to have taken great pains to acquire information about it; but it is more easy to deduce the expense of the bridge than the cost of the property, on which I can give no opinion. It is evident, however, that any bridge in the neighbourhood of St. Paul's should be on such a scale and of such a style of architecture, and with such approaches, as to be worthy of the situation, opening out as it would the cathedral; indeed such a bridge should be equal to London Bridge in point of appearance.

550. Sir *J. Shelley*.] Supposing that the Committee were to decide that one bridge only should be built, where, in your opinion, would it be best that that bridge should be built?—At Charing Cross.

63

T. Page, Esq.

9 May 1854.

551. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Taking into consideration the crowded state of London Bridge?—Yes; the state of London Bridge will be considerably improved when the alteration which has been suggested by the City architect, Mr. Bunning, has been carried into effect, viz., giving additional width to the bridge by projecting the footpaths over the face of the bridge and taking the whole width of the bridge for the carriage traffic. I think that laying out the bridge by a system of trams, so as to keep the heavy traffic on one line and the light traffic on another line, would do much to relieve London Bridge, as much, perhaps, as the widening of it would do.

552. A great deal of the inconvenience felt is in the approaches to London Bridge, not actually on the bridge itself, though it is felt there strongly; is not that an evil which nothing but a new bridge would remedy?—It is; but I think you could by a proper arrangement of the police make the traffic upon the approaches conform to the principal traffic on the bridge. There is on the Surrey side, besides the principal approach from the Borough, the approach from Tooley-street, which must tend very materially to inconvenience the traffic, and there is also the fork at King William-street and Gracechurch-street on the City side. If between the fork on the City side and at Tooley-street there were some very strict police regulations (I am not aware that there are not), which regulations were such that there should be no interruption to the traffic between those points, I think London Bridge laid out under a system of trams would be almost sufficient for the traffic that passes over it. Generally, in any bridge, the great inconvenience arises from there being heavy carriages often before the light ones; you ought to have the heavy carriages travelling on one line, and the light ones upon the other.

553. *Chairman.*] Would you extend the principle of widening?—I think I would to Blackfriars.

554. Did you hear Mr. Walker's evidence upon that subject?—I only heard the commencement of it.

555. Mr. Walker said that at present the width of the free bridges altogether was 138 feet, and he suggested a plan by which they might be brought to 323 feet, by widening the bridges now in existence, and by throwing open the toll-paying bridges; do you think that feasible?—That would necessitate widening the substructures as well as the superstructures of some of the bridges.

556. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You are aware that Mr. Bennoch stated in evidence his belief that the bridge he proposed, including the approaches, might be executed for 500,000 *l.*; have you any means of forming any judgment yourself as to the correctness of his estimate?—The expense of the bridge would lie more in the purchase of property, and in making compensations, than in the construction of the bridge itself; I have no doubt that the gradient of Southwark Bridge would be very considerably improved by raising Thames-street a few feet.

557. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] With an arch?—No, raising the street itself; I was looking at it a few days ago, with Sir John Rennie and Mr. Bunning, when we surveyed London Bridge; a great improvement might be made by raising Thames-street three or four feet, and raising the Surrey side, and taking off a foot or two from the bridge at the crown, which I believe can be done.

558. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Would not that subject the whole of the traffic that went along Thames-street to a rise?—Yes.

559. Would not that lead to considerable obstructions?—It would not be any great objection, because the traffic passing up from Thames-street to Cannon-street has to go from a lower level to a higher level, and it would make the ascent easier there; so that for the traffic which passes along Thames-street, and diverges to the right-hand or the left, it would be an advantage; it would be an inconvenience to the traffic in the direct line of Thames-street, but a convenience to the branch traffic.

560. *Chairman.*] Have you made an estimate of the cost of the two bridges which you suggest in the West-end of London; that is, the Charing Cross Bridge and the Horseferry Bridge?—An estimate was made in 1844, and for the bridge proposed at Charing Cross it was 150,000 *l.*, and 100,000 *l.* for the bridge at the Horseferry.

561. Without reference to the approaches?—Without reference to the approaches.

562. Have you made any estimate for the approaches?—No. The works

T. Page, Esq.

9 May 1854.

necessary for the approaches would not be very considerable, but the cost of the purchase of property would.

563. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Is the river about the same width as it is at the spot where it is proposed by the City to cross it, viz., Doctors' Commons?—It is considerably wider at Charing Cross than at Doctors' Commons.

564. That would cost about 140,000 *l.*?—It would cost 150,000 *l.* at Charing Cross, irrespective of the approaches; the abutments of the bridge would coincide with the proposed line of embankment on that side.

565. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Are you speaking of an iron bridge or a stone bridge?—Of an iron bridge.

566. *Chairman.*] What would be the widtth of the bridge?—Sixty feet.

567. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Do you think the bridge at the Horseferry would cost 120,000 *l.*?—Yes.

568. Do you conceive it would cost 120,000 *l.* to buy Vauxhall Bridge?—Yes, I think it would cost more than that.

569. *Chairman.*] It pays better than any?—I believe it does; I have here a tabulated statement of the dimensions of the bridges over the River Thames.

570. Will you hand it in?—(*the same was handed in*).

Martis, 16° *die Maii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Oliveira.	Mr. Alderman Challis.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Mr. Pellatt.	Mr. Locke.
Mr. Jackson.	Mr. Blackett.
Sir John Shelley.	

BENJAMIN OLIVEIRA, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Robert Few, Esq., called in; and Examined.

Robert Few, Esq.

16 May 1854.

571. *Chairman.*] I THINK you are Chairman of the Charing Cross Bridge Company?—I am.

572. When was the structure commenced?—The Act for authorising the construction of the bridge was passed in 1836; the construction of the bridge was commenced in 1841, and it was finished and opened on the 1st of May 1845.

573. What is the traffic at the present time?—I have taken it from this return, given me by the secretary, of the gross traffic; the amount up to the present time is 28,978,021 foot passengers, giving an annual traffic of 3,121,980 passengers.

574. Has the traffic increased very much from year to year?—The traffic has gradually and regularly increased. I should add that this return of traffic is exclusive of the steam-boat traffic.

575. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] How has the traffic been in the last three or four years?—It has been very regular, except the year of the Great Exhibition, and then of course there was a sudden and considerable increase.

576. *Chairman.*] Have you a table of the traffic which you can put in?—No; the traffic consists only of foot passengers, and therefore in giving you the gross or annual return, which is something above 3,000,000 passengers per annum, I have given you the whole.

577. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Have you only one fare for all descriptions of passengers?—Yes, only one fare of a halfpenny for all descriptions of passengers; but then in addition to that, there is the steam-boat pier, at which the traffic at present is about two millions and a quarter; that has been rapidly increasing of late years.

Vide Appendix, No. 3.

578. Could you give these particulars in detail?—That I could get; I give it to you as it was furnished by the clerk who attends to this business; it is no part of our revenue. That shall be laid before the Committee.

579. *Chairman.*]

Robert Few, Esq.

16 May 1854.

579. *Chairman.*] You contemplate making a carriage-way there, do not you?—We contemplate entirely changing the nature of the present structure; the existing structure is wholly for foot passengers, as I have already explained. The original project was never fully carried out; the original project was to make a line of communication from Hungerford Market to the York-road; but from want of means it stopped short at the Belvedere-road. Since the opening of the bridge we have arranged to extend the approaches to the York-road, and in 1845 an Act was passed authorising the extension. By that Act an increase of the capital was authorised also, which has been partly applied to the purpose, and the residue is in our hands applicable to the completion of the scheme.

580. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What sum have you now in hand?—About 10,000 *l.*, including 3,333 *l.* to be borrowed, the Act providing altogether 13,333 *l.* for the extension of the Surrey approach.

581. Sir *J. Shelley.*] What sum have you in hand?—We consider that we have already in hand, including the call not made, and the 3,333 *l.* which we are authorised to raise, 10,000 *l.* We have 5,000 *l.* upon deposit account at this moment.

582. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Did I rightly understand you to say, in answer to a question from the Chairman, that the traffic has increased to a large extent?—I was then speaking of the steam-boat traffic.

583. The amount of passenger traffic over your bridge has been pretty steady of late years?—Every year it has increased about 100 *l.* The increase of this year has been at the rate of 800 *l.* a year; for the last three months we have had 200 *l.* over the general average receipts of those months.

584. The Committee wish to ascertain whether the general desire to cross the bridge be increasing to such a degree that the present conveniences afforded by it ought to be extended, and therefore it will be important to have an account of the progressive increase for the last few years put in?—That shall be furnished to the Committee.

585. Mr. *Jackson.*] Will you furnish all the accounts of this traffic since the opening of the South-western Railway to Waterloo Station?—I will furnish an account of the whole nine years.

586. *Chairman.*] What cost will it necessitate to make it a carriage-way?—The details of the cost will be given in evidence. I believe it will cost 150,000 *l.* to make the bridge and the approaches. Mr. Baly, the engineer, is prepared to produce the plans; he is more familiar with and better competent to give the particulars of the items than myself.

587. Do you consider the situation of your bridge calculated to facilitate traffic to the metropolis if there be a carriage-way constructed?—I think that it is unquestionably the position for a bridge from Charing-cross. I had better show you the ground-plan of our bridge and its approaches, which I have here (*producing the same*), and which will better explain the matter.

588. Will you show it to the Committee (*the same was shown to the Committee*)?—Originally it was intended to have come to the York-road; but from want of funds in 1836, or rather, I believe, to cut off opposition to the Bill, it was cut short at Belvidere-road. We now have power to carry it on, and have arranged terms for the purpose with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and with the owners of the fee of the land we intend to take. We have funds sufficient, not only to pay them, but also to complete the approaches. Now it is proposed to carry our Middlesex approach through the market, widening Hungerford-street, which is to be thrown back. If necessary, the corner house in the Strand, opposite the market, will be taken, but I doubt whether it is necessary. It is also exceedingly easy to make an approach through Great Scotland Yard if it should suit our purpose.

589. Do you include that in the estimate?—No; all that we include is the dark line.

590. *Chairman.*] That includes the station at the end?—It includes the Middlesex approach.

591. Mr. *Jackson.*] What is the nature of the locality (*pointing to the Surrey side*)?—There is a great brewery (Messrs. Goding's) there, but otherwise it is very poor indeed. The dotted line on the plan shows the direction of the so-called Government street to the Town Hall, Southwark, which is close to our intended route. Our project has been in agitation for upwards of 12 months,

Robert Few, Esq.

16 May 1854.

and we have been in communication with the directors of the South-western Railway about these improvements, though not at all officially; they felt that if they did not adopt this course across their vacant land, a street along here might be formed by widening Griffin-street, which has houses only on one side, on the opposite side, and bring it out into the Westminster Bridge-road. In fact, this extension I brought forward last spring as chairman of the Bridge Company, in consequence of what took place in the House, and feeling that something must be done, and that we might as well do it ourselves. We have had returns taken of Westminster Bridge, to show the traffic over it; and we felt sure that by opening a direct line here, although of course it would be better that a more direct line should be made, we should essentially lighten the traffic of Parliament-street. Those were the main points which induced the directors to entertain the notion of altering the bridge in this way; and speaking only my individual opinion, and not for my colleagues, I entertain a strong opinion that, particularly if accompanied by this street, it is a bridge that will be perfectly self-supporting, and one which we should be justified in putting forward.

592. £. 150,000 will be the expense, will it not?—I find that the amount in the deposited estimate is 156,000 *l.*

593. What is the width of the proposed bridge?—It is 48 feet, but the engineer would be better able to speak to that.

594. Sir *J. Shelley.*] You said "self supporting;" is it then proposed to put a toll on it?—Yes, a very low toll.

595. Supposing Westminster Bridge to be free from toll, do you think that the public would come over a toll bridge in preference?—Yes, I feel perfectly satisfied that they would; it will be our fault if they do not go; if we put a low toll on the bridge I am sure that it will answer our purpose.

596. You do not think that the fact of a toll, no matter how small, is of itself a check to persons going over a bridge when they have an opportunity of going over?—Certainly not. Mr. Walker said in his evidence that he would not go over a toll bridge because of the inconvenience it occasioned to him; but he subsequently stated, in the same evidence, that he went over Southwark Bridge constantly. The toll on Vauxhall Bridge is exceedingly high; it used to be 4½*d.* for a cab.

597. Mr. *Jackson.*] Have you any estimate of the cost of making the approaches to the bridge?—No, I have not. I propose putting quite a low toll upon the bridge. I will now put in our returns of the Westminster Bridge traffic, taken by our own men, which give the following results: the foot traffic of one week was 341,398; of gigs and horse carriages there were 7,660; of cabs, 19,157; of carriages drawn by two or more horses, 2,192; of omnibuses and stage-coaches drawn by two or more horses, 5,326; of carts, waggons, and drays, drawn by one or two horses, 24,879; carts, waggons, and drays, drawn by three or more horses, 1,299; of vans, 2,265; of donkey-carts, 526; of trucks, 1,942; and of equestrians and led horses, 3,046.

598. Will you hand that in?—I will. (*The same was handed in.*)

599. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Did you take that on any particular week?—No; they were taken in consequence of this Committee.

600. Is there a date on it?—From the 2d of August 1853 to the 9th of August. Then, as bearing upon that question, I beg to hand in a table of distances between various places and the Nelson Monument over Westminster Bridge, Waterloo Bridge, and Charing-cross Bridge respectively, by which I find the measurements to be very much in favour of Charing-cross Bridge. We have taken both the existing roads and the proposed roads, and the saving of distance is very great indeed, particularly to the South-western Railway Station.

601. *Chairman.*] You base your calculation upon that statement?—I do.

602. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] You say that the toll will be so small as not to prevent traffic going over the bridge; what is the toll that you propose to take?—Speaking only my own views, I should propose twopence for a carriage with four wheels and one or two horses; and if you save half a mile by this route, cab passengers will readily pay the 2 *d.* rather than the 6 *d.* extra fare, which they would have to pay by the other route. I am quite sure that a low toll will induce travellers to come over this bridge.

603. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Have you taken the distance to London Bridge, for instance, by your road, and by Westminster Bridge, and by Waterloo Bridge?—Perhaps I had better read my statement. From Nelson's Column, Charing-cross,

cross, to where the Government new road intersects the Waterloo-road over Charing-cross Bridge, the distance is six furlongs 160 feet by our proposed new street, and by the existing streets it is six furlongs 590 feet; over Waterloo Bridge the distance is one mile 260 feet; there is about a quarter of a mile difference between these two. We have then taken the distance from Nelson's Column, Charing-cross, to the booking-office of the South-western Railway, coming along this street which has been widened in order to enable us to pass under the railway, it is six furlongs 620 feet; whereas over Westminster Bridge it is one mile, one furlong, 630 feet, making upwards of three furlongs difference; and over Waterloo Bridge it is one mile, one furlong, 280 feet. If the station be extended into York-road, as successive directors have told me they contemplate doing, and if the short traffic be carried to this extreme point, and the long traffic be kept where it now is, then it is evident the advantage will be even more in favour of Charing-cross Bridge; for in that case coming over Charing-cross Bridge the distance will be five furlongs 400 feet; over Waterloo Bridge, one mile 465 feet; and over Westminster Bridge, one mile 480 feet, making very nearly half a mile difference.

604. Mr. *Jackson.*] Which is the nearest route, by Westminster Bridge or by Waterloo?—In one case it is shorter over Westminster Bridge, and in the other case over Waterloo.

605. Mr. *Locke.*] That is supposing that there will be a second station of the South-western Railway?—Yes; I have taken the route which I fixed after consultation with them. I have omitted one measurement which was particularly requested by the Committee, namely, that from the Nelson Column to the Town-hall in the Borough, over Charing-cross Bridge. By the Government road it is only 1 mile 4 furlongs 25 feet; round Fleet-street and through New Cannon-street it is 2 miles 3 furlongs 410 feet.

606. Mr. *Jackson.*] Have you measured the distance between this point and the point where you strike the Westminster Bridge-road?—I have not.

607. Were you rightly understood to say that you could reach that point by a short road?—Yes.

608. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] I think you said that in one year there was a difference of 800 *l.* as compared with former years; was that in the year of the Exhibition?—No; what I stated was this, that the increase of the past three months in the present year was at the rate of 800 *l.* for the whole of this year.

609. That is an increase of 1,000 persons a day, is it not?—Yes, about that.

610. *Chairman.*] What is the whole amount of the cost of the bridge at present?—The cost of the bridge was returned at about 113,000 *l.* I have here a list of the claims (*producing the same*).

611. Will you hand it in?—(*The same was handed in.*)

612. The Committee desire to know the whole amount you have expended upon the present bridge; what is your capital at present?—The capital includes items for incidental expenses of various kinds.

613. Mr. *Jackson.*] What is the total amount of capital that you have raised for the present undertaking in round numbers?—I think it is, as nearly as possible, 137,000 *l.*, including the 10,000 *l.* raised for the extension.

614. What additional capital do you contemplate raising to carry out the plan that you now propose?—£. 150,000.

615. £. 300,000. would cover all your expenditure, and give a profit to the shareholders?—It would.

616. Can you give the Committee what you have estimated the revenue, according to the lowest scale of tolls that you would advise?—I have not the materials here from which I made my estimate; I have assumed certain proportions of the traffic over Westminster Bridge and an increase of traffic over Charing-cross Bridge; I make the gross amount about 30,000 *l.* a year; but that, of course, must be open to doubt, as another person may draw a different conclusion from my data.

617. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Would your existing bridge relieve you from the expense of building a new bridge?—Yes, to some extent; we propose to use the same piers, which are wide enough for the new bridge, and strong enough to bear the extended structure.

618. Mr. *Jackson.*] Are you prepared to state what in your opinion would be

Robert Few, Esq. the amount of the revenue received?—I have made the calculation, but I have not the paper here; it is from 20,000 *l.* to 30,000 *l.* per annum.

16 May 1854.

619. In what stage is the Bill for authorising these alterations?—It has passed the Standing Orders, but we stopped, partly because we wished to know the decision of this Committee before we proceeded, and partly because of the state of the money market.

620. You do not intend to proceed this Session?—No.

621. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do you think that in the present state of the money market you would get the funds for it now?—I do not think so. I should propose that the 150,000 *l.* should be raised by new stock taking precedence of the present shares.

622. Mr. *Jackson.*] Without going into these matters, you can state that you expect to raise the capital for your project?—Yes.

623. You think the amount of traffic will be adequate?—Quite so. I believe the traffic over this bridge will be second only to London Bridge; it will be our fault if it is not.

624. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Do you know the difference of width between this and Westminster Bridge?—I do not. There is one thing which we ought to have asked for, and which I should propose to ask for in our new Bill, namely, that inasmuch as investments of this sort have not been remunerative hitherto, and as the public will gain great benefit by it, we should be relieved in the same way as Waterloo Bridge, from all liability to rates and taxes. We should have no objection that there should be a certain limit set to the dividend, and that we should be compelled to create a sinking fund out of the excess for the ultimate redemption of the tolls; at least, speaking personally, that is my feeling.

625. Mr. *Jackson.*] Have they abandoned the idea of bringing a railway across this bridge?—We are ready to attempt it at any time if a satisfactory offer is made to us.

626. *Chairman.*] Do you pay any dividend on your capital now?—Yes; but I am not prepared to go into the financial part of the case.

627. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Is your bridge carried on by a Board of Directors?—Yes.

628. Will you furnish the Committee with a list of the Board of Directors?—I will.

629. Will you also hand in an account of the progressive increased traffic of the bridge for the last five years?—It shall be handed in.

630. Have any objections been raised by persons in that particular locality to your proposed extension (*pointing to the Surrey side*)?—Very few.

631. On the Westminster side?—Of course, we must arrange with the Hungerford Market Directors, some of whom are on our direction, but our intention is to interfere as little as possible, and to keep the same level. The road will come to the level of the Strand without any difficulty.

632. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] It will interfere rather with the market?—I should think it would very beneficially. I consider it will double or treble the value of their property.

633. *Chairman.*] Shall you take the market in?—That would have been the best plan, certainly, but they ask too much.

634. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Do you know the estimated cost of Westminster Bridge?—I believe the lowest tender is 200,000 *l.*

635. Has not the architect given any estimate?—I know of none.

636. He merely says that an estimate has been made?—Yes; that is so. Mr. Page, in his late evidence before this Committee, seems to carefully avoid committing himself to the correctness of such estimate.

Mr. Alderman *Salomons,* was called in; and Examined.

Mr. Alderman *Salomons.*

637. *Chairman.*] YOU are well acquainted, I believe, with the state of the traffic over the bridges in the city of London?—I am a citizen of London; I was born there, and I recollect the city from my earliest days. I travel a good deal over London Bridge, having a country residence near Tunbridge Wells in Kent, and am therefore often obliged to cross London Bridge. I travel a great deal, also, between the western part of London and the city; between the Marble Arch at the north of the Park and Hyde Park Corner; so that I traverse the principal thoroughfares of London, Oxford-street, Holborn, Cheapside, Fleet-street, very often

Mr. Alderman *Salomons.*

16 May 1854.

often. In fact, I may say that I have a thorough knowledge of the streets of London.

638. In your opinion is the City sufficiently supplied with bridge accommodation?—If you speak of open bridges, I say most distinctly, not; there is no one who crosses London Bridge at any time in the day, but more particularly between 9 and 12 in the morning, and between two and five in the afternoon, but must be struck with the extraordinary pressure that there is over London Bridge, caused by carts, carriages, cabs, and waggons; that of course has been greatly increased of late years by the opening of the railway, which has made it the great depôt for all the southern traffic of England.

639. Which will be increased by the opening of the Crystal Palace Railway?—I should think there will be a yearly increase with or without that, but without doubt the Crystal Palace will add greatly to the pressure on London Bridge, and on all the communications that centre at the station, and all this is of course compressed to the point where you have the convenience of a bridge; besides this, there is the short traffic which is now becoming very dense on the bridge, and by the river side.

640. How do you propose to remedy that evil?—There are two ways of remedying the evil; the first is by a better distribution of the traffic through London. It seems to me that you cannot well consider the question of bridges, without considering the mode by which the traffic of London can be better distributed through the leading thoroughfares, and therefore if you mean to open the bridges, concerning which I apprehend it is the object of this Committee to consider the means, you should in connexion with that consider the mode by which these bridges are to be reached by improved thoroughfares; therefore with regard to Southwark Bridge for example, which, as being the nearest to London Bridge, is the bridge on which there would be the greatest amount of traffic, unless before you take the tolls off that bridge which is now closed, you find some better means of communication between London Bridge and Southwark Bridge, you would not do that which I think necessary, and which I think the public look for.

641. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What are the alterations in the streets of London which you would suggest, in order to improve the communication?—There is one obvious principle of distribution, which is, to make the southern side of the river more available than it now is. The great depôt for persons quitting London, depôts, I may say, are the railway stations, of which there are two on the south side of the river, and the communication along the street which leads from London Bridge to Blackfriars Bridge is very bad; it hardly could be worse. If you attempt to reach Union-street, which runs from Blackfriars Bridge eastward, you encounter a number of streets which are not much better than wide lanes. I travelled through them this morning, and really they are so crooked and intricate and densely crowded, that I could hardly find my way through that portion of the road which leads to the railway station at London Bridge.

642. Mr. *Jackson.*] You consider the public approaches to Southwark Bridge to be so bad, that throwing open the bridge will be very little benefit to the public?—I think that this Committee, besides opening the bridge, should contemplate a better means of communication between the south end of London Bridge and Blackfriars on the Surrey side.

643. *Chairman.*] Are you not aware that a street in that direction has been projected?—I was aware of it.

644. And you consider that a fund has been collected for that?—I think not; but I think it should be one of the objects of this Committee to throw a certain portion of the traffic which now passes through Parliament-street and Charing-cross on the north side of the river, to the south side.

645. Mr. *Locke.*] Would not a new bridge at Charing-cross, or at Westminster, or any additional bridge, have that effect?—It strikes me that a Charing-cross bridge would take the traffic of all persons coming from the west of London to go south; there is a dense population in that part of London, and all the people from that part going south come to a point at Charing-cross. By a bridge there, you would carry a part of that on the south side of the river, instead of the north. I think that in some of the improvements I have seen proposed it is not sufficiently considered that the chief movement of the population of London is east and west, rather than north and south.

646. Have you any other proposition to suggest to the Committee except the

Mr. Alderman *Salomons*

16 May 1854.

one you just now suggested?—I should suggest the opening of Southwark Bridge.

647. How would you propose to open it?—By untolling Southwark Bridge and the bridges generally.

648. With reference to the approaches, would you recommend that the approaches to Southwark Bridge be made better than they are at present?—It appears to me that if Southwark Bridge were untolled, you would want a street on the Surrey side from the Town Hall, to run north-west, so as to meet Southwark Bridge-road, near to the bridge.

649. *Chairman.*] You would need to widen Union-street, in fact?—No; I want two streets running west. I understand that there is a new street projected running east and west. But with regard to Southwark Bridge, I say that the means of making that available would be, to have a street which should meet the heavy traffic of the borough, that coming from Bermondsey, and other parts, where there are large manufactories on the south side of the river; that these streets should meet at the point I have named, where there is now a wide street leading to the "Elephant and Castle;" the point of deviation should be so that a part of the traffic which now goes over London Bridge may go over Southwark Bridge.

650. What would you propose to do with the traffic over Southwark Bridge, on the Middlesex side; would you have any alteration there?—It strikes me that you may do sufficient there by raising the roadway a little, and by altering the planes of the streets leading to Cannon-street; I am of opinion that you do not want an arch to run over the street; you require a very small adjustment of the streets to make the descent from Southwark Bridge nearly if not quite so good as London Bridge is on the Surrey side.

651. Mr. *Jackson.*] You are an advocate for untolling all the bridges?—I am an advocate for untolling all the bridges.

652. Have you ever considered from what source the money should be obtained which would be wanted to give compensation to the parties interested, and how the bridges should be supported afterwards?—I think it right to state to the Committee that I am not a proprietor of shares, nor have I any interest in any of the bridges; I am here merely as a citizen of London; it appears to me that we might be able, without introducing any very new principle, to have a bridge rate; I think that a bridge rate might be levied by the county magistrates, under authority of an Act of Parliament, and that if that were done, the Government should then grant Exchequer bills on the security of the rate; and probably the City of London, I only speak now as an individual member of the corporation, would have no objection to contribute a portion also towards the scheme. I believe the City of London, with the continual improvements that are required in the city, object to bearing the entire onus of buying up Southwark Bridge; but I have no doubt that there would be a party in the corporation who would think it their duty to contribute towards it from the city cash, although they might not think it right that they should pay the whole expense of furnishing a public bridge for the whole metropolis.

653. That does not apply to Southwark Bridge only, but you merely mention that as the one which has particularly come under your observation?—I think Southwark Bridge is more indispensable from the great pressure on London Bridge; every one who goes over London Bridge must say that they experience very great injury to trade, and delay to persons going over is experienced, saying nothing as to the risk to carriages and the other inconveniences that persons suffer from having a street so thoroughly over-crowded as London Bridge is.

654. *Chairman.*] Without wishing to do any injustice to Waterloo Bridge, with which any bridge which has approaches on a level would be in a position to compete?—I think we ought to do in London what was done in France a few years ago. There were some toll-bridges in Paris at the time of the late Revolution; I know the State came forward and bought the bridges, giving an annuity to the owners in proportion to the receipts of the actual toll of the bridges. I should be very sorry to prescribe anything for Southwark Bridge that was not equally applicable to Waterloo and Vauxhall, but I spoke of the actual pressure on London Bridge, with which I am best acquainted.

655. You think the whole burden of buying up the bridges ought to be borne by the metropolis by means of a bridge rate?—Undoubtedly.

656. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] You think so, seeing that the advantage would be

be almost as great to the market gardeners and others of that description on their coming into London?—It is very difficult to say where a line of that sort should be drawn; many persons think that the metropolis is so necessary to the whole country that everybody should contribute towards any great metropolitan improvement. I do not think so; I think it would be a disgrace to London that the neighbouring towns should be called in to aid it; I think that good streets and good bridges are obviously necessary to the convenience of London, and should have no doubt whatever that the metropolis ought to be liable for the expense of their construction; and I think that the money should be raised as it usually is in counties. I am also of opinion that a penny rate for a limited number of years ought to be sufficient for the purpose.

657. Mr. *Jackson.*] Carrying out the principle which is adopted in county improvements, that each county should pay for its own improvement, you think that this district should pay for its improvements?—The magistrates of surrounding counties have authority in all the metropolitan districts; and I do not see why they should not make a rate, under the authority of Parliament, applicable to their particular district. If that were done, there would be no difficulty in raising capital for the purchase of Southwark Bridge at a fair and reasonable value.

658. From your knowledge of the people connected with the City, do you think that if that were done they would meet the desire of the public by widening the approaches?—They have built a handsome street a little beyond a stone's throw of Southwark Bridge; and I think that having done so, they will do all that they can, by contributions or otherwise, to make the approaches convenient to the public. That is of course only my individual opinion; I cannot speak officially; I am only one of a numerous body.

659. *Chairman.*] Have you heard the evidence which has been given before this Committee?—I saw the evidence of Mr. Laing, and I have seen a statement this morning with regard to the quantity of street traffic in the principal thoroughfares of London, which I believe has been given in to the Committee, by which the Committee will see how desirable it is to separate the traffic before it is brought to a single point. Perhaps the Committee will allow me to call their attention to these two points. It seems that in Ludgate-hill about 7,000 waggons and horses pass daily; that was calculated on a certain day, the 10th of July; and that on the 11th of July, the next day, 6,375 waggons and horses passed Newgate-street. Now at Foster-lane, in Cheapside, there were 11,000; the streams coming from the west, one by Ludgate-hill, and the other by Newgate-street, are united there; and you have 11,000 passing that point. Now it strikes me that we may fairly assume that, besides making bridges, if there were some opportunity taken to distribute that traffic, by stopping it earlier, you would greatly relieve the bridges in the City of many persons that pass and repass those two thoroughfares. I find that 13,000 waggons and horses passed over London Bridge on the 13th of July.

660. Mr. *Locke.*] Would not that increase of traffic be taken away by the new bridge?—It would divide it. That shows the great necessity for opening Southwark Bridge, because, as I said before, every one coming to and from Southwark, and going along Queen-street, would go over Southwark Bridge, if it were open.

661. As the result of your experience, you wish to remind the Committee, that wherever you concentrate the traffic you should have a new distribution of the approaches?—Yes.

662. Mr. *Jackson.*] If Southwark Bridge were thrown open the traffic through Cheapside would not go to London Bridge?—No; at present it passes by that bridge, because it is barred by the toll on Southwark Bridge.

663. You think that the traffic which goes to Ludgate-hill would now go by Southwark Bridge?—Yes.

664. Mr. *Locke.*] What is your opinion with regard to the access formed to Southwark Bridge on the Surrey side and the proposed road leading from London Bridge to Union-street?—It strikes me that to make it thoroughly available two streets are wanted; one new street would be an improvement, but to make it thoroughly available, you want to be able to divide the traffic in the borough quite as much as in the City.

665. Is there any good continuous street now existing between the end of London Bridge and the Westminster Bridge-road?—I fancy Stamford-street is

Mr. Alderman *Salomons.*

16 May 1854.

the only one; from Westminster Bridge to the end of Stamford-street in the Blackfriars Bridge-road you have a very good street; but beyond that, between Blackfriars Bridge-road and Wellington-street, Southwark, you have nothing but a parcel of *cul de sacs*. I have very often to come that way to the railway station, but I generally choose immediately to get clear of these lanes that lie between London Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge. I make a circuit, and go all the way to the Queen's Bench Prison for the purpose of having a broad street, and with the view of avoiding the stoppages that frequently take place in these narrow lanes; I start away from my house and go over Westminster Bridge, and go about a mile out of town to the Stones' End in the Borough, for the purpose of getting free of these bad streets. It appears to me that this is a most discreditable state of things in a metropolis like London.

666. Mr. *Pellatt.*] You are speaking of a road which you suggested from London Bridge to Southwark; have you seen the Government plan, which proposes not only to carry it to Southwark Bridge, but right into the Westminster-road?—I understand there were two or three plans suggested; I am speaking of a second street. I know that there is a road running east and west.

667. You are speaking of a new road?—I am speaking of a road that shall meet the Borough traffic somewhere near Union-street; I am speaking of two roads, one going due east and west, and the other north-west and south-east. I would have a street that should meet the heavy traffic of Bermondsey somewhere near the Town-hall in the Borough, to run north-westward for the purpose of getting into that new street, and so dividing the traffic. I would have two new streets.

668. Mr. *Locke.*] Would you limit the increased communication to Southwark Bridge?—To Southwark Bridge.

669. Do you think the importance of Southwark Bridge, compared with that of Waterloo Bridge, so great that it should have a distinct street of its own?—I do. London Bridge is the first bridge at which the river can be crossed, and I would endeavour if I could to facilitate that traffic by not putting more upon the bridge than circumstances would allow. All the traffic east and west of London Bridge must come to London Bridge for the purpose of crossing over to Surrey or Middlesex, and there is a great deal of traffic in Surrey from various manufactories. I would endeavour if I could to divide the traffic by giving the persons who are going over the bridges or streets west of Southwark Bridge a street in the Borough, that they may go over Southwark Bridge, and so to make London Bridge freer than it now is.

670. Do you mean that to be exclusive of any further means of communication with Westminster?—No. I would have a north and south communication between the Borough and Southwark Bridge; and I consider an east and west means of communication to be indispensable also.

Price Prichard Baly, Esq., called in; and Examined:

P. P. Baly, Esq.

671. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are the engineer to the Charing-cross Bridge, are not you?—I was resident engineer under Mr. Brunel, and am now the acting engineer of the company.

672. Mr. Brunel is the superintendent?—Mr. Brunel designed the bridge, and I superintended the construction of the works under that gentleman's direction.

673. You have heard the evidence given by Mr. Few. Do you concur in his views as to the possibility of carrying a carriage road over the bridge?—I do.

674. At what cost could that be done?—The cost of the work would be 104,000*l.*, according to our estimate.

675. Will the present structure bear carriages without any strengthening?—The roadway is not wide enough.

676. How much wider do you propose to make it?—It is proposed to make the total width of the bridge 48 feet.

677. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] How is that compared with the width of new Westminster Bridge?—I believe new Westminster Bridge will be 80 feet wide, and Waterloo Bridge is 42 feet wide.

678. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that if this bridge were made into a carriage way, it would bear the traffic very well?—I think so.

679. Have you calculated the traffic that would come over it?—That is a question which has been examined into more particularly by the Chairman.

680. You think that the receipts would pay for the outlay?—I think so.

681. Mr. *Locke*.] What is the present span of your bridge?—The present centre span is 676 feet 3.

682. How many more piers do you propose?—Not any more; we propose to retain the same spans.

683. Do you propose to keep it as a suspension bridge?—We propose to keep it as a trussed suspension carriage bridge; I have a drawing here which shows the bridge (*producing the same*).

684. Do you propose by this plan to retain the present approach?—Yes, widening it; it is proposed to retain the present piers (with slight modifications) up to the level of the present roadway; the piers are sufficiently large to allow the bridge to be widened as proposed; it is intended to place the carriage-way between the footways, on either side of which there will be strong lattice trusses running along the whole length of the bridge; the chains will be placed in two lines, one on each side of the roadway, and which will be suspended from them by triangles (as proposed by Mr. Brunel), in such a way that the whole of the chains would be deflected at any particular part by a load at that part, and which is an essential condition in a suspension bridge. In the Menai Suspension Bridge the roadway is suspended from four lines of chains, and there are four chains in each line, and originally the roadway was so attached to each of these chains alternately, that, by a load passing over the bridge, first one chain was deflected, then another, and so on until the whole of the chains were put in motion. As proposed, at the Charing-cross Bridge all the chains must be deflected at once, and, consequently, there will be very little, if any, motion. We have a very good example of a carriage suspension bridge, of 666 feet centre span, which has been erected between Pesth and Buda, in Hungary, by the late Mr. Tierney Clark, and this bridge has been subject to very great trials. Both the Hungarian and Austrian armies passed over it before it was finished. In two days 70,000 men passed over it, with all their baggage and heavy artillery, even before the flooring was trussed.

685. There is one at Friburg?—Yes; that is 860 feet span; that has simply wire ropes.

686. Mr. Alderman *Challis*.] Is there any saving in enlarging this bridge in preference to building another?—Yes.

687. Even with the advantage of 100,000 *l.* already laid out, you propose to spend 300,000 *l.*?—No; the present bridge and approaches have cost about 113,000*l.*; our Parliamentary estimate for the alteration and approaches is 156,000*l.*, making the total cost of the bridge, when altered, 269,000*l.* In comparison with Westminster Bridge, the width of the river at that point is about 900 feet; at the Charing-cross Bridge, the distance from abutment to abutment is 1,350 feet.

688. *Chairman*.] You have heard Mr. Few's evidence; do you agree with him as to the probable expense of your proposed alterations?—I think that the margin between what I estimate as the actual cost of the bridge and the Parliamentary estimate will be sufficient for the approaches.

689. With the 300,000*l.* you could carry that out?—With 156,000*l.*, making the total cost of the bridge 269,000*l.*

690. Mr. *Jackson*.] Have you a copy of the plan you have shown to the Committee, upon a smaller scale?—Not upon a smaller scale; the large plan shows the width of the bridge; I have cross sections and a longitudinal section of the bridge.

691. *Chairman*.] Will you favour the Committee with a small plan of the bridge?—I will.

692. And also a plan showing the approaches and contemplated improvements?—Certainly; I have a larger plan, to show how we propose to interfere with Hungerford Market.

693. Will you show it to the Committee? (*The same was shown to the Committee.*)—It is proposed to carry the approach through the centre of the market, widening Hungerford-street, the houses in which will have to be set back, and there is sufficient space behind them to enable this to be done.

694. Mr. *Jackson*.] You go through the centre of the market?—We go through the centre of the market, making use of the space occupied by the Diorama and the row of small shops shown upon the plan.

695. Have you calculated the cost of it?—That is included in the estimate.

P. P. Baly, Esq.

16 May 1854.

696. Have you ever taken into consideration the probability of taking a railway train over the bridge?—We should have to reduce the span if we did.

697. If you were to hear that between Canada and the United States they had successfully constructed a railway bridge of 800 feet span, would that alter your opinion?—I should not have much fear of constructing a bridge of that span, but it would be a question of expense; it would cost so much more for a bridge of that span, that I think the most economical way would be to build additional piers for smaller spans.

698. Mr. *Locke*.] Although such a large span is suitable for the Niagara, it does not follow that it is suitable for the Thames?—No; we should have to consider the question of the height of the bridge, the difficulty of forming piers, and so forth.

699. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt*.] With regard to the mechanical strength of the bridge, you have illustrated the reasonableness of the expectation that this will be very strong by mentioning the bridge across the River Danube; but was it not the fact that when the architect laid the foundations of that bridge, he knew pretty nearly what the bridge would have to do, whereas when you laid the foundations for this bridge you laid them for a foot bridge only?—We have very large foundations in our bridge, nearly as large as those of Mr. Tierney Clark's bridge; I have calculated the strength of the foundations, and they are sufficient for the purpose.

700. Mr. *Locke*.] Will you state what your calculation is, how much weight will be thrown upon the foundations?—It does not exceed three and a half tons upon the square foot, supposing the bridge to be fully loaded.

701. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt*.] Do you happen to know how much weight there is per square foot upon the foundations of London Bridge?—I cannot answer that question.

702. At all events, you think that this foundation is quite adequate to carry three and a half tons upon the square foot?—I know perfectly what the ground is. Upon the south pier we had great difficulty in driving the piles of the coffer-dam so as to enable us to put in the foundations.

703. Is it not on gravel?—The south pier is founded on a bed of natural concrete, and the north pier upon gravel.

704. Was not the great difficulty, with regard to Westminster Bridge, caused by the fact that it was founded on gravel?—Not the fact alone of the foundations being upon gravel, but their not being sufficiently deep below the bed of the river; our foundations are deeper than those of Westminster Bridge.

705. Mr. *Locke*.] What is the thickness of the gravel?—On the north pier it is about 10 feet; on the other side we could not bore through the natural bed of the concrete.

706. Mr. *Jackson*.] The gravel resting on a bed of clay?—First of all, the foundations stand about 10 feet below low-water mark; there is then 10 feet of gravel, and then the clay; but on the south pier I cannot say what the thickness of the stratum is, because we could not get to the bed of clay.

707. Mr. *Wilkinson*.] Has there been any elevation of the gravel since the bridge has been made?—I am not aware of any; there certainly has been none in the neighbourhood of our bridge; our foundations are also secured by a pile sheathing and the coffer-dam piles.

708. Will you furnish the Committee with a small plan of the whole bed of the river?—I will.

709. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt*.] With regard to the depth of the foundations, you have given the depth below low water; do you know how deep the foundations are below the bed of the river?—I cannot tell you from memory, but I can easily ascertain.

710. You can give the Committee a plan, showing the bed of the river?—I will; showing the bed of the river and the depth of the foundations below the bed. I will also show upon it the Trinity standard high water-mark. I will also give the Committee a section of the bed of the river, and of the foundations of the piers.

711. Sir *J. Shelley*.] Are you aware whether the Board of Directors of this bridge have in any way considered the possibility of their being asked to sell their bridge?—I am not aware whether any question of that kind has occurred.

712. *Chairman*.] It is not a very paying concern, is it?—I cannot speak upon that point.

Jeremiah Evans, Esq., called in; and Examined.

713. DO not you reside near London Bridge?—I do; within a few houses of London Bridge.

714. You are constantly observing the nature of the traffic?—Every day, and every hour of the day.

715. Is the traffic on London Bridge very crowded?—At some hours of the day it is very crowded, to the great inconvenience and great danger of passers-by. I had intended to give you the amount of traffic over London Bridge, but I have been anticipated by Mr. Alderman Salomons; but he forgot to tell you that the account was taken in the year 1850, and the traffic since then has greatly increased, and is still increasing daily; and when the Crystal Palace is open I have no doubt that it will increase 10 or 20 per cent. more.

716. How would you remedy the evil in that particular locality?—By the immediate opening of Southwark Bridge.

717. Would the present approaches be convenient for Southwark Bridge, if it were opened?—They should be improved; but even as they are, a vast traffic would go over Southwark Bridge if the toll were taken off.

718. Are you aware that negotiations have been entered into by the Corporation, as to Southwark Bridge?—Yes, I am.

719. Are they progressing?—I believe some committee of the Corporation has been directed to negotiate with the owners of the bridge; but I believe the sum asked has been considered too large by them.

720. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Has not that negotiation been altogether suspended, in consequence of the inquiry by the Bridge House Commissioners, and pending their report?—I am not aware of that.

721. *Chairman.*] Have you read the evidence that has been taken before the Committee?—I have not.

722. You have heard the Committee ask a former witness whether he thought that the Corporation of London, or the people of the metropolis, would bear a tax for the payment of the money for the purchase of that bridge; do you think they would?—My opinion upon that is, if the coal tax was continued a little longer it would be less felt by the inhabitants of the metropolis than any other tax. I think it would be less objectionable than any other that could be devised, and it would be easily collected.

723. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Do you think a party who is living just within the radius of 20 miles would think it just, or would prefer that the tax upon coals should be continued for the purpose of keeping up or buying up those bridges, rather than that the inhabitants of the metropolis should contribute for that purpose?—I should myself prefer going on as we are now going on to having any new rate.

724. Do you think that your sentiment would be shared by a person living within a quarter of a mile of the boundary of that mystical radius of 20 miles round London, over which the coal tax extends?—I consider this, that the bridges of London are not merely for the inhabitants of London, but for the public at large, and that they derive a benefit from them.

725. Why should you select that particular radius, of which we have heard so much, with which the inhabitants are taxed?—The inhabitants within that radius would be more likely to use the bridges of London than the inhabitants of places 100 miles off.

726. Mr. *Jackson.*] Would not the bridge be a benefit to all the property within that radius upon which the tax fell?—I should imagine it would be a benefit to it.

727. Would not it be better to lay the toll upon that property instead of upon the individuals consuming coal?—All individuals consume coals to a certain extent.

728. Might not the tax be fairly distributed?—I think there would be an objection to any new imposition.

729. Supposing the coal tax were not in existence, do not you think it would be more honest to levy a rate upon the whole of the metropolis than to begin a coal tax?—I am speaking now of the coal tax being in existence; but if it were not, perhaps I should not say a word about it.

730. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Does not it involve the question of direct and indirect taxation?—I should myself prefer paying a tax upon coal to having a new impost.

Jeremiah Evans, Esq.

16 May 1854.

731. Mr. *Locke.*] You give it, as your own individual opinion, that because there is a coal tax in existence, it is better that it should be continued than that a new tax should be imposed?—Just so.

732. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Are the Committee to understand you to say that you think that to be the general opinion of the people living within the radius of 20 miles?—No, I merely give my own opinion.

733. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] You said this, that it would be paid with less dissatisfaction, and would be less obnoxious than any rates upon property for the express purpose of a bridge?—That is just what I mean.

734. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] With reference to greater facility of traffic over the bridges, you have seen the plan of Mr. Bunning for widening London Bridge?—I have not seen it, but I have heard of it.

735. Is it your opinion that that would remedy the existing evil?—I should be sorry to see it carried into effect, so as to mar such a beautiful bridge; but I do not think it would answer the purpose; it might in some degree ease the traffic, but it would not be sufficient.

736. Do you think that the mere throwing open of Southwark Bridge would be insufficient to meet the whole traffic?—I think that the throwing open of Southwark Bridge would relieve London Bridge to a considerable extent.

737. Do you think it would do so to such an extent as to render any widening of London Bridge unnecessary?—I cannot give an opinion on that question, because the population and traffic are increasing year by year, and day by day I believe within the last month no less than 3,500 omnibuses have passed over London Bridge within 12 hours.

738. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Is not your objection to the alteration of London Bridge according to Mr. Bunning's plan, rather on the score of taste?—It is rather so.

739. Have you seen the model of it which he has had made?—I have not.

740. Do not you think it possible that his galleries might be projected, so as not to disfigure the bridge?—With my limited knowledge upon this matter, I should say that you cannot add to the bridge, so as to make it more beautiful, but that if you alter it you must detract from the beauty of it.

741. Mr. *Locke.*] I understand you not to be favourable to widening the bridge, is it from that you reason?—Chiefly.

742. Do you think the widening of London Bridge would get rid of the difficulty caused by the overcrowding of the accesses to it?—The throwing the foot ways at the outside of the bridge would not relieve the bridge sufficiently, in my opinion.

743. Would it at all relieve the pressure which is now felt in the approaches on the City side of London Bridge?—If you were to relieve London Bridge, of course that would ease the traffic to a certain extent; but at the same time it would bring more traffic on to the bridge, and would thus make the matter worse.

744. Would it not be necessary under those circumstances, that if the bridge be widened the accesses should also be widened?—Decidedly.

745. Is there greater inconvenience felt now in those narrow streets in the City of London, which lead towards London Bridge, than from London Bridge itself?—I believe the main thoroughfares of the City are tolerably wide; for example, from Shoreditch Church there is Bishopsgate-street, and Gracechurch-street. There is also Cheapside, and from Finsbury-square there is Moorgate-street.

746. Do you think from Whitechapel Church into the City of London the thoroughfare is wide enough?—At Aldgate pump there is a narrow space; that ought to be widened.

747. Any increase of traffic brought in that direction by the widening of London Bridge would make the difficulty greater?—Without doubt, it would.

748. Then you think that in widening London Bridge, or giving any other facility for the traffic in that direction, one great object should be to make the City communications wider at the same time?—No doubt of it.

749. You heard the opinion expressed by Mr. Salomons with respect to that; do you agree with it?—I concur in almost every syllable he uttered.

750. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] At the same time, in new Cannon-street, and Gracechurch-street, and Eastcheap, which all lead to London Bridge, there is as much as twice the width of London Bridge itself?—The width of new Cannon-street, I believe, is 60 feet, and therefore that alone is wider than the bridge.

751. Cannon-

Jeremiah Evans, Esq.

16 May 1854.

751. Cannon-street, and Gracechurch-street, and King William-street, on the Middlesex side, all lead to the bridge, and their united width is more than twice the width of the bridge; since the traffic of these streets is all concentrated upon the bridge, do not you think that widening the bridge would relieve them? —Yes; the traffic over London Bridge, from a quarter to four to about a quarter past five is enormous; if a horse happens to fall, the traffic is very much delayed. I see frequently carriages turn round at my door which will not venture upon London Bridge; they turn round, and go along Cannon-street over Southwark Bridge.

752. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Have you considered how much of the west-end traffic to London Bridge might be diverted if there were good roads on the Surrey side of the river to Westminster Bridge, taking the other bridges in the way?—There are a vast number of omnibuses to Paddington and other places that go from the station on the south side of London Bridge which would keep on that side. If there were a good broad street within a short distance of the Town Hall to what is called the New Cut, which leads to Westminster Bridge, it would be a good thing; I think it would divert a vast amount of traffic.

753. Have you seen the Government plan, which goes pretty nearly along the line you have mentioned?—I do not know; I think I saw something of the sort years ago.

754. It would relieve the traffic which now goes over the bridges to a large extent?—Certainly

755. *Chairman.*] Have you seen the plan which Mr. Bennoch proposed for building a bridge near St. Paul's?—I have.

756. Do you think that desirable?—It may be desirable 10 or 20 years hence, but in the meantime it would be desirable to do that which is more readily done, viz. to throw open Southwark Bridge.

757. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Southwark Bridge is midway between London Bridge and St. Paul's, is it not?—It is about midway.

758. *Chairman.*] Are you of opinion that that bridge should be thrown open before another is built?—Decidedly so; no time should be lost, for the danger is great in allowing London Bridge and the approaches to remain as they are.

759. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Have you paid any attention to the plan which was suggested, of directing the traffic over London Bridge by forming an iron tramway, so that you will have room for four lines of carriages, supposing the foot-passenger traffic to be projected over the side, the design being to keep the heavy waggons in one line?—Supposing the horses were to fall across the other line of the road, this plan would be of no use.

760. Would it not be just the same under the present system; if a horse falls at present nothing can go by; they would not be more likely to fall on this plan than on the other?—No; I should say the traffic is now so great in King William-street that I have known foot passengers wait a quarter of an hour or more before they could get across. Fortunately there is a cab-stand, which is a great convenience as far as it goes; it assists a person to go across; you may run to the cab-stand and there wait a little, and run across at intervals; but I have myself waited 10 minutes before I could get across, even in that way; and I know that some members of my family go down into Thames-street and go under the dry arch, and come up again on the other side, rather than run the risk of crossing.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Esq., called in; and Examined.

I. K. Brunel, Esq.

761. *Chairman.*] THE object of this Committee is more particularly to inquire into the bridges over the Thames below Battersea. When I moved for this Committee in the House of Commons, a suggestion was thrown out by Mr. Goulburn that this would be a good opportunity to ascertain whether the Thames Tunnel might not form a new communication, in order to give further facilities to the traffic. It is for that purpose the Committee desire you to favour them with your opinion. Are you of opinion that the Thames Tunnel might be brought into use for heavy traffic?—Yes. It was originally intended for that; and there would be no difficulty in completing it.

762. The approaches form the chief difficulty?—The approaches remain to be made.

763. Would it not involve the expenditure of a considerable amount of money?—

I. K. Brunel, Esq.

16 May 1854.

money?—To the best of my recollection, it would involve an expenditure of about 100,000*l.* to 150,000*l.*

764. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] That is, to form the approaches on both sides?—On the two sides.

765. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Would not it be necessary to make a very long incline plane, which would remove a good deal of property, or would you have a tunnel?—On the Wapping side, it would be decidedly necessary to make it circuitous; on the other side, now that the directions of the traffic are more determined than they were at that time, it might more cheaply, or at least more advantageously, be carried out straight.

766. You are aware of the amount of the traffic across the water at that point?—It is so entirely a matter of opinion, that I cannot speak certainly as to it. A good many years ago, when the tunnel was first projected, the traffic was taken very correctly, in order to ascertain what proportion came towards London Bridge from the east, and turned back again by Tooley-street and various other streets towards the east, and it was found to be very considerable; but of course everything has changed so much since then, that the former figures would not apply; still I should suppose that unquestionably it would be considerable. I think it is very likely that it would not be so much the traffic which now comes round by London Bridge that would go across the tunnel, but it would be a traffic created to a great degree by the tunnel, which would cause a diminution in the traffic which at present exists over London Bridge.

767. Would there be any disposition on the part of the tunnel proprietors to make concessions for the benefit of the public?—I should fancy that there is every disposition on the part of the tunnel proprietors to do anything that may be required of them; they get no dividend at present, and therefore I should suppose they would be very ready to make any terms; and besides that, I am sure that the leading men concerned in it would be deeply desirous of having it completed, and thrown open to the public.

768. What sum of money did the Government advance for the completion of the project?—We are paying something like 1,400*l.* or 1,500*l.* a year at the present time to the Exchequer Loan Commissioners. The amount borrowed was 250,000*l.*

769. What proportion of that do the present tolls pay?—The total receipts are somewhat about 5,000*l.* a year; but there are considerable expenses of repairing and watching, and lighting, and various things, and my impression is, that there is a balance of 1,400*l.* or 1,500*l.* a year, which goes to the Exchequer Loan Commissioners.

770. The repairs and other expenses being paid now, do not you think that if the project were carried out, so as to fit it for heavy traffic, the money raised would be above the margin of the expenses; so that there might be a possibility of paying the proprietors something?—I have no doubt that the completion would enlarge the traffic, and bring a larger revenue too; it would increase considerably the foot traffic; at present the foot traffic is less, I believe, than it was before the tunnel was made. At the time when the tunnel was making, the amount of traffic by the ferries across there was very large indeed, and everybody supposed that the making of the tunnel would increase it. But the improvements that have taken place everywhere else by bridges and railways and other new works, have left the property in that neighbourhood now comparatively deserted. The actual foot communication between the two sides is, I believe, considerably less than it was at that time; because that is a part of the river where the shores are cut off completely from all good means of access; and I have very little doubt that the making of an access there would enable people to communicate with the mills and other commercial yards, and would increase very considerably the amount of passenger traffic.

771. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] What is the width of the roadway?—There are two of 15 feet each; it would only do for a thoroughfare for carts; it would not answer for any quick traffic.

772. Mr. *Locke.*] What is the height of the archways?—Sixteen feet; there was an idea some few years ago of making it available for railway communication, and an offer was made by one or two of the large companies; and it was found sufficient for the railway height, which is 16 feet.

773. That idea has quite gone off now?—All such railway projects at the present moment have gone off.

774. *Chairman.*]

774. *Chairman.*] Do you think that if the expenditure necessary to render it available for heavy traffic were laid out, it would pay for that expenditure?—I should think it would repay the expenditure now required; I do not look for much dividend upon the original capital.

775. Mr. *Locke.*] Should you think that an expenditure of 150,000 *l.* upon the approaches would be sufficient?—I think so; there is very good access to it on the Wapping side, and there are very good roads to it on the north side.

776. Is there sufficient property on either side to justify such an expenditure?—It passes through a very great extent of property which would be very materially benefited by it, but whether there would be a great deal of traffic I cannot take upon myself to say. There are a good many worse communications across the Thames, over or under.

777. Have you turned your attention to the question of bridges across the Thames?—Yes.

778. Do you think it would be advantageous to the metropolis that the bridges should be bought up and made all free?—That is a very wide question. I have no doubt in the world; in fact it is almost a truism to say, that it would be a public advantage to buy the bridges and throw them open, but I have great doubts in my own mind as to the advantage to the country of introducing a system which interferes with the true proper spirit of commercial speculation. But that spirit seems to be very much interfered with in the present day in numerous cases, in railways and other matters, and therefore I do not know why an exception should not also be made in this case. I would rather leave the different plans entirely to the speculation of the public, although some speculations are bad, yet I think that you must take the bad and good together.

779. Would that opinion of yours be affected by the consideration that there are some bridges toll-free and others not?—No; the great principle would govern me still, if the public were left free to act upon the great principle of commerce. But, as I said, it is departed from so constantly now; and here is a case which probably may, as was argued, be different from ordinary cases. Without doubt it will be a great public convenience to have the bridges thrown open.

780. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Looking to the result of the speculations which have been made hitherto with regard to Waterloo Bridge and others, and considering the general belief that all those speculations have been losing concerns, do you see any prospect at the present time of any companies being formed to build fresh bridges?—I think if the Legislature does not unnecessarily interfere to prevent it; if the Board of Works and various Government departments did not step in to dictate what should be done, you might get half a dozen bridges built across the Thames next year.

781. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Do you mean as speculations?—Yes.

782. Mr. *Locke.*] You are aware that there is a scheme on foot for widening Charing-cross Bridge?—I am, but that is interfered with now; everybody is afraid to propose anything; because the instant they do, Government steps in, and the next Session Parliament legislates differently. Nobody knows how they may safely invest their capital in these public works, or from one year to another what principles may guide them. If people were left perfectly free, with a due regard to private interests, for everybody to lay out their money as they thought best, I believe you would get half a dozen bridges across the Thames, and that they would be profitable.

783. Sir *J. Shelley.*] In what way does the course which Parliament or the Government pursue affect the case of the existing Waterloo Bridge, which is known to be a losing concern?—I do not say it would affect that; the people who made Waterloo Bridge chose to spend a great deal of money more than the public convenience required; I do not believe that that bridge would ever pay. But if parties come forward and adopt reasonable plans, the building of the bridge would not cost them a large sum of money; and if they put it in a part of the river where it was needed it would pay; but there are so many impediments in the way, that it is almost impossible to carry any such scheme into execution. In answer to a question that was put to me, I may say, that I do not think that the fact that Waterloo Bridge does not pay, or rather the fact that Waterloo Bridge cost one million and a half, and that Southwark Bridge cost a very large sum of money, will at all prevent parties coming forward to-morrow to propose a bridge upon a moderate rate of expenditure at some part

I. K. Brunel, Esq.

16 May 1854.

of the river where it would pay, if there were not other causes interfering with them.

784. You think that, supposing a joint stock company were formed at the present time to build a bridge, the shares would be likely to be taken and the money paid?—I do not mean to say at this moment; but I think that in the course of a very few years it would be done very easily.

785. You think that this Committee would do well to report that in our opinion the public, if we left them alone, will step forward of their own accord, and start these speculations?—If that were the result of your inquiries you would; but, of course, I cannot pretend to say that you would do right in expressing that opinion, because I believe it; but my individual opinion is, that if the public were allowed free action, the public would presently provide bridges for the accommodation of the public.

786. Mr. *Wilkinson*.] Do you not know any instance in which a bridge constructed over the Thames has paid?—I cannot at once give you an instance in London; but I suppose that Hungerford Bridge is not far from paying.

787. Mr. *Locke*.] Do you know whether Vauxhall Bridge pays?—I do not know what the value of their shares at present is.

788. Mr. Alderman *Challis*.] You wish to express the opinion that either by a reduction in the cost of the materials, or by the aid of more skill in the construction of the bridges, they might be built for so much less a sum than any of the present bridges cost, that by building them in an economical manner and in a good situation they might be made to pay?—I do not give quite the reasons you mentioned in the question. Waterloo Bridge and Southwark Bridge both cost a great deal of money, because people chose to spend that money upon them, not merely because prices were high at the time, but because they chose to make a more costly bridge than was necessary. But with present prices, and the present information upon the subject, I believe economical constructions could be made which would afford sufficient remuneration to those people who embarked in them.

789. Sir *J. Shelley*.] Will you explain what you said just now as regards the course pursued by Government as to the difficulties which they throw in the way of such schemes being started?—I should not like to adopt the expression, "the Government throw difficulties in the way." What I said was, that we have for several years past constantly had (and perhaps very properly) so many inquiries by the Government, and expressions of opinion by the Government, as to what ought or ought not to be done in matters connected with the river embankments, railway stations, bridges, and things of that sort, that parties feel that if they propose anything which Government are opposed to, they run great risk of not getting their measure through Parliament; and there would also be a great difficulty in their obtaining money support to a measure which is unfortunately opposed to the views expressed by the different departments. Then, on the other hand, those of much experience would hesitate very much how they adopted a plan in accordance with the views of a Government department; because, from whatever cause it may arise, they have been in nine cases out of ten rejected by committees of this House. Therefore, they are placed in a dilemma between the two, and that has constantly interfered with the projection of plans. I believe there has been something proposed or recorded by Government, or parties connected with Government, in opposition to or connected with the Hungerford Bridge scheme. I constructed Hungerford Bridge, and therefore I have cognizance of a good deal that is doing with respect to it. I know that certain schemes have been proposed, or Mr. Baly's plans have been objected to by parties connected with the Board of Woods and Forests.

790. Mr. *Locke*.] Without giving isolated examples, do I understand you to say that there are impediments raised by Government and the Board of Works to plans suggested by private individuals which have the effect of impeding those projects?—I cannot adopt those words. I do not say that there are impediments raised by the Government offices, but that difficulties result from the mode of procedure in the Government offices which cause impediments to private proceedings.

791. Do you find, as a general practice, that Committees of Parliament very frequently object to plans which have received the sanction of Government?—As I stated just now, as a mere calculation of chances, my calculation has always been

been that they would decide against the previous decision of Government authorities.

792. Sir *J. Shelley.*] I presume that the Government department takes the opinion, probably, from its own engineer in any case that they might have before them?—Yes, and I think there is a great risk consequently with all Government departments, from the circumstance that the public does not know what governs the opinion of the engineer attached to a Government department; it is all done in secret; and as he is, of course, subject to the same weaknesses as the engineer attached to a railway company or any other body, he advises what he thinks consistent with the wishes of those he acts with, and consequently you are not so sure of a good and wise decision as you are with the conflict of opinions of professional men canvassed in public.

793. The Government engineer constantly gives an opinion adverse to the opinion of the engineer projecting a particular scheme, and therefore, before it can be settled, the project dies?—Very often that is the case; I may refer to the Health of Towns, and several other things. With regard to the supply of water to London, for instance, as the plans proposed by all the civil engineers of the water companies of the day were not perfect, we were told to wait, and taught to expect a much more perfect scheme from the Government. I do not know how many years have elapsed since, and nothing has been produced. When conflicting schemes are proposed, and it is open to the public in Parliament to have one or the other, they can choose pretty well between these different schemes without the assistance of Government.

794. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is it your opinion that, with regard to this matter, bridges are no exception to the principle of leaving these things to private competition?—I believe none whatever.

795. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] As to the cost of bridges, you were asked just now whether, by improvements in science or other means, bridges could not now be constructed much cheaper than they could once. You built Hungerford, about 20 years ago, and I think your capital has been stated to have been somewhere about 200,000 *l.* or 300,000 *l.*?—The bridge cost 100,000 *l.*

796. If you were to construct a bridge to do what that has to do, could you do it for less than that bridge cost?—I do not suppose that a bridge of that span would vary five per cent. at the present moment; but a bridge would not necessarily have so large a span as we were driven to there in order to avoid opposition from the City, or some other parties, I forget who, and that adds to the expense.

797. I believe that in the accounts of this bridge, there is very little set down as expended upon the approaches; it is nearly all spent upon the bridge?—I think the cost must have been somewhere between 90,000 *l.* and 100,000 *l.* for the bridge alone, together with the immediate abutments, and the approach from the market.

798. The Committee have had an estimate of what it would cost to alter the bridge?—I have not gone into that.

799. The object of these questions is, to apply it to bridges elsewhere. You have been asked whether bridges could not be built cheaper than they are at present; what is your opinion about that?—I think bridges could be built cheaper now than 20 years ago, from a number of circumstances, partly because we possess now cheaper modes of construction; for example, we should not think it necessary to have a 700-feet span in the middle of the river, and Government has set us the example of having bridges of less height than has usually been required; they have carried through the House an Act for a bridge with less headway than usual; if it is a bridge with arches, that would help to reduce the expenditure. Bridges built at the present day will admit of more arches than the three of Hungerford Bridge. There are various other modes of construction which are now adopted by civil engineers which will admit of a cheaper mode of execution.

800. Sir *J. Shelley.*] You have spoken of Westminster Bridge; I believe that, as to the height of the bridge, a good deal turns upon the kind of traffic which comes up the river short of Westminster Bridge?—Yes. What I said was, that some private individuals have been restricted to a higher limit, whereas when Government come in they have two or three feet cut off. Private individuals have no chance, of course, when Government begins building; circumstances change, and the public suffers.

I. K. Brunel, Esq.
16 May 1854.

801. Mr. *Locke.*] What you think is, that the public departments require a vast deal more than the public interest demands?—They require a great deal more than they consent to do themselves, and Westminster Bridge is a proof of it.

802. You do not mean to say that they sacrifice the public interest, but that they require of others more than the public interest requires?—I think both.

803. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Are you aware that a large number of highly respectable commercial houses were much vexed at the proposed height of the bridge?—Yes; I was applied to professionally to assist in opposition to that, but I did not like mixing myself up in it.

804. *Chairman.*] The object of this Committee is, first, to ascertain the fact, which is pretty well generally known, that the present bridge accommodation of the metropolis is inadequate to its wants; and, secondly, to ascertain whether we cannot construct other bridges to facilitate the traffic. Will you tell the Committee where you would suggest the construction of other bridges, looking at the population and the manner in which the traffic is divided?—I have hardly given the subject sufficient consideration to be able to point out upon the map exactly the spot where it would be best to put other bridges; I think there are a great many private and other interests affected by that, which I should hardly like to express an opinion upon; I really have not looked at the question; if I had, private interests would not prevent my expressing my opinion, but I have not done so. It strikes me that there is room for two or three bridges between Westminster Bridge and London Bridge.

805. There are two suggestions before this Committee; one is to widen London Bridge by throwing the footways over the sides, leaving the whole bridge for carriages. The second is one which was suggested by Mr. Bennoch, to build a bridge opposite St. Paul's. Do you think that that situation would be advantageous?—I should imagine, from my knowledge of the thoroughfares on the banks of the river, that a bridge across there would be advantageous in some respects, but that, unless it were constructed with very extensive approaches on the south side, it would not be of much public utility, because nothing leads to it on that side; it would lead into a miserable set of crooked and narrow streets that would not serve as approaches to a bridge.

806. Mr. *Locke.*] Is it supposed that if a bridge were placed there it would be connected with a street running nearly parallel to the river on the south side of London Bridge to the Railway station; would your opinion be modified by that?—Unquestionably.

807. Probably you think that if any additional bridge were built across the Thames, either at St. Paul's or anywhere in that locality, a communication with the south side of the river would be very desirable, in order to take off a part of the traffic from London Bridge?—If a bridge were made nearly in that position, it would be absolutely essential that some street of that sort should be made on that side.

Martis, 23° *die Maii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Oliveira.	Sir John Shelley.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Sir Benjamin Hall.
Sir James Duke.	Mr. Pellatt.
Mr. Alderman Cubitt.	Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Locke.	Mr. Alderman Challis.

BENJAMIN OLIVEIRA, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. *John Plews*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Plews*,
23 May 1854.

808. *Chairman.*] I think you are an Engineer?—Yes, I am a Civil Engineer.

809. Are you very well acquainted with the bridges over the Thames, in the Metropolis?—I am, with those bridges which Messrs. Jolliffe and Banks have built; that is, Waterloo Bridge, Southwark Bridge, and London Bridge, and also with

with another bridge which I suppose is not in your jurisdiction, which they built, at Staines; so that altogether they have built four bridges over the Thames.

810. Your immediate knowledge is confined to Waterloo Bridge, of which you are a director?—Yes.

811. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] You have acted as engineer in the building of all of those bridges?—I have been engaged in their building, in connexion with the contractors.

812. *Chairman.*] Are you of opinion that the present bridges in the metropolis are insufficient for the traffic of the metropolis?—I think that if the toll bridges were thrown open, they would be sufficient, but more particularly if Southwark Bridge were thrown open; because, as far as Waterloo Bridge is concerned, there is not nearly the traffic over it that could be accommodated, without inconvenience to the public, and the rate of toll is low.

813. Do you think then that Waterloo Bridge should be thrown open?—That is probably a question of revenue. If the Government could find a sufficient sum of money to pay for it, I am not aware that there would be any particular objection to it on the part of the creditors of the bridge; but they would much rather that it should be left alone, because the tolls have been gradually increasing for a number of years, and it is expected that they will do so for the future. For instance, the average increase of the toll for the last three years is at the rate of 907 *l.* 8 *s.* 9 *d.* per annum, but upon the last year alone the increase over the preceding year was 1,108 *l.* 3 *s.* 10 *d.*; so that the creditors of the bridge have an increasing revenue. At the same time, the bridge itself is a great accommodation to the public; and they think that even Parliament is scarcely justified in interfering, unless it be for one of these two reasons: if the tolls were high, and the company were deriving a large revenue, then it might be a fair object for public inquiry; or if the bridge in itself were inconvenient, then the public might interfere. But I think that, while the tolls are reasonable, and we have not one-fifth of the traffic on the bridge which we can accommodate, we think that the public have no reason to complain.

814. When you say creditors, do you mean in fact the shareholders?—No; the shareholders of Waterloo Bridge are hopelessly insolvent, and no circumstance can affect this bridge by which they can ever receive any benefit; the annuitants have a prior claim to their dividends, and therefore any increase of the toll, which is going on gradually, goes to the annuitants. I state, in answer to the inquiries made by the Committee, that I, for instance, am a tolerable large holder of property; and if I want to raise money upon my annuities the answer will be: "This bridge will be thrown open to the public soon, and therefore we cannot deal with you." The consequence of that is, we can only dispose of our securities at a great depreciation while this inquiry is proceeding, and therefore the Committee is doing an injury to the creditors by this inquiry; although the original proprietors probably would be very glad if the bridge were to be purchased by Government, because in all probability they would get something, whereas at present their shares are valueless.

815. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Will you tell the Committee who these creditors are; how have their debts arisen?—The company borrowed 300,000 *l.*, and granted annuities of 8 *l.* per annum, for 99 years, upon the payment of 60 *l.* Afterwards, an additional 200,000 *l.* was borrowed upon annuities of 7 *l.*, upon the payment of 40 *l.*; this 60 *l.* and this 40 *l.* was understood to increase the original subscriptions of 100 *l.* to 200 *l.*, upon which they were to receive 7½ per cent. It was expected that the original subscribers would respond to this, and to a great extent they acted upon it, and took these annuities.

816. Sir *J. Duke.*] They were to receive 15 per cent.?—Fifteen per cent. upon the first 100*l.*, the original subscription, which is 7½ per cent. on the 200 *l.*

817. Sir *J. Shelley.*] What have they actually received?—The last dividend they have received was 4 *s.* in the pound.

818. What proportion is that of their payment; what do you mean by 4 *s.* in the pound?—I mean to say that a holder of an 8 *l.* annuity last year, received 32 *s.* instead of 8 *l.*

819. *Chairman.*] At the period that I moved for this Committee, an Honourable Member of the House who is on this Committee, intimated that he thought the creditors of this bridge were promoting this inquiry; according to your evidence the creditors had rather that the matter were left alone?—I say that the shareholders, whose interest is really of no value, would in all probability be very

Mr. *J. Plews.*

23 May 1854.

glad if the bridge were thrown open, under the notion that they would get something; not so the annuitants, who are the holders of property which is gradually increasing in value.

820. You think the shareholders would be benefited by it?—I have no doubt of it; if my property in the bridge consisted of shares alone, I should be very glad of the idea; for you could not take it away from me without giving something for it, whereas it is now worth nothing.

821. Sir *J. Shelley.*] I understand you to say you thought that this inquiry affected the property of Waterloo Bridge, and did damage to the creditors?—I am sure it does.

822. By the word "creditors," you mean those who advanced their money with the expectation of receiving 15 per cent.?—Certainly.

823. But instead of that, they have received only about 4 *s.* in the pound?—It is not a great many years ago since the dividends were either 2 *s.* 6 *d.* or 2 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound, and they have gradually increased until they have reached 4 *s.*; and I must say that, from my knowledge of the circumstances as a director, I have no doubt that they will go on increasing.

824. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] When you speak of the increase as being 900 *l.* in one year, and 1,100 *l.* in another, to what do you refer?—To the increase upon the gross receipts of the tolls.

825. What were they?—The gross receipts for the last half year were 9,344 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.*

826. Then it is an increase of 907 *l.* upon 18,000 *l.*?—Yes; it would be an increase upon an average of something like 18,600 *l.* a year.

827. *Chairman.*] As a civil engineer, will you favour the Committee with your opinion as to the condition of the structure in respect of solidity?—I have taken some interest in the bridge, in consequence of the active part which I took while I was with Messrs. Jolliffe and Banks at the time of its construction; I have watched it very carefully, and have seen no symptoms of its failing in any way since it was opened in 1817, neither do I expect that anything of the sort will take place. I know there is an impression abroad amongst civil engineers, that after the taking down of old London Bridge, the washing away of the bed of the river would affect all the bridges; but I am quite satisfied that any engineer who makes himself acquainted with the nature of the foundations of Waterloo, Southwark, and London Bridges, will at once be satisfied that it does not, because they are so deeply embedded in the river, and are built in such a way that, at all events, no natural cause can affect them in any way. The foundations of Waterloo Bridge are built upon piles 22 feet long; they are driven into the solid bed of the river; upon the heads of these piles there are longitudinal and transverse sleepers, and between them masses of solid masonry; half-timber planking is spiked upon them, upon which the masonry is built, eight feet below the bed of the river; so that no washing away can by any possibility affect the foundations of any of the three bridges.

828. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] That description applies to Waterloo Bridge, and London Bridge, and Southwark Bridge?—Yes.

829. The foundations of those bridges were all built in the same manner?—They were; I may say by the same engineer, as Waterloo and Southwark bridges were designed by the late Mr. John Rennie, and London Bridge by his son, Sir John Rennie, who, I believe, adopted his father's plan with regard to the foundations.

830. You have said that the planking upon which the foundations rest is eight feet below the bed of the river; does that mean the bed as it now exists, after the scouring which has taken place since the opening of new London Bridge?—No; they were eight feet below the bed of the river at the time the bridge was built.

831. Do you know how much the bed of the river has been lowered by the scouring action which has taken place?—Immediately after the pulling down of old London Bridge, soundings were taken at the two arches of Waterloo Bridge through which the great scour takes place. They were taken from a datum fixed for the purpose of ascertaining whether any material alteration took place in the bed of the river; and the company's surveyor, who is present, has very carefully examined them twice a year, and, with the exception of a slight washing through the second arch, which is caused by the steamers passing there at low water, there is no variation of any consequence; I am speaking of the substantial part of the bed of the river. One alteration has taken place: after London Bridge was pulled

pulled down a great number of steam-boats came up, and the rippling caused by their paddle wheels has washed away all the mud from the embankments at the edges of the river; for instance, I have known places myself where a man would have sunk up to his waist in mud, where you now find nothing but shingle and gravel. I believe that is the only alteration of any consequence that has taken place, at all events in the vicinity of Waterloo Bridge.

832. In fact, it had not affected the bridge at all?—Not at all.

833. So that you come to the conclusion that the bed of the river is still about eight feet above the level of your planking?—It is; the only variation would be at the second arch, where the steam-boats come through; and I believe that there is a little alteration there, but nothing that affects the stability of the bridge. I may state that, as there has been so much said about the washing away of the bed of the river, the company have been extremely careful; and I suppose that in the last 10 years they have deposited a dozen barge loads of ragstone, where the bed of the river has been washed away by the steam-boats, and I believe that it is in a better state than ever in the neighbourhood of the bridge.

834. *Chairman.*] In the event of its being thought necessary to construct another bridge over the river, where would you suggest that the new bridge should be placed?—I believe that the great traffic that requires accommodation is in the neighbourhood of the City; I should say that it ought to be between Southwark and Blackfriars.

835. You would suggest that it should be placed somewhere near St. Paul's?—Yes; I should think midway between those two bridges.

836. Have you seen a plan projected by Mr. Bennoch for a bridge in that locality?—I have not.

837. At the west end of the metropolis you do not think that another bridge is necessary?—I do not; and particularly if Westminster Bridge is widened, which, I believe, is to be done; I think it would be a waste of public money to build another bridge, and I am quite sure that no private company would.

838. At a former meeting of this Committee, the chairman of the Charing-cross Bridge suggested that that bridge might be made into a carriage bridge; what is your opinion as to that?—I do not think it would make much difference in the facilities afforded for communication from the Surrey side of the river; it is quite as near to go over Westminster Bridge to Charing-cross as it would be to go over their bridge; I do not think it would be of much use to the public.

839. What was the cost of building Waterloo Bridge?—The cost of building the bridge was 682,369 *l.* 11 *s.* 4 *d.*, and the cost of the approaches, which includes the purchase of the land on both sides, was 255,021 *l.* 19 *s.* 11 *d.*, making a total of 937,391 *l.* 11 *s.* 4 *d.*

840. When did you obtain the original Act for constructing the bridge?—I can hardly say, but it was probably in 1808 or 1809; the secretary can speak to that.

841. Perhaps he will be also able to give the Committee information as to the revenue of the bridge?—Yes, he will be able to furnish all those particulars.

842. Sir *B. Hall.*] The cost of the bridge and the approaches, in round numbers, is above a million and a half of money?—I believe the cost of the bridge and approaches altogether was 1,050,000 *l.*, but a part of that was made up by the proprietors receiving their interest upon the amount of their deposits.

843. The shareholders received no interest out of the capital sum?—They had nothing out of the capital sum after the bridge was opened; but the real cost of the bridge was made up by the capital, including the sum I have mentioned, of 50,000 *l.*

844. There was between 50,000 *l.* and 70,000 *l.* paid out of the capital sum, as the interest upon calls?—Yes, it was about that amount.

845. What is the nature of your governing body?—We are a corporation by Act of Parliament.

846. Consisting of what?—Twelve directors, of whom three go out by rotation annually, but are eligible for re-election.

847. How often do you meet?—Once a month; and we have a general assembly every six months to receive the statement of accounts, and the half-yearly report of the state of the undertaking.

848. At those general assemblies, do many of the shareholders attend?—No; very few.

849. What is about the number of shareholders who form a quorum?—I believe

Mr. *J. Plews.*

23 May 1854.

believe the assembly must consist of 250 shares; but it is not limited as to the number of people who must be present.

850. The question referred to the number of shareholders present at those assemblies?—I should say there are seldom more than 20 or 25.

851. Including the body of directors?—Yes.

852. Do the directors generally attend their meetings?—Always.

853. In what proportion, in relation to their numbers?—Five form a quorum; and I should say there are frequently eight or nine.

854. It appears that the last half-yearly income of the bridge was 9,344*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*?—That is the income up to February last.

855. And that gives an annual income of between 18,000*l.* and 19,000*l.*; is that the gross income, exclusive of outgoings?—Certainly.

856. What do the outgoings amount to?—Including the repair of the road, and expenses of toll-collectors, and all other charges, they amount to about 3,500*l.* a year; the secretary will give you the details.

857. Does that include all the expenses of management?—Everything.

858. What do you set down in that account for the management and direction?—The allowance to the directors is 150*l.*, and 12*l.* to the auditors.

859. Sir *J. Duke.*] Is that 150*l.* to each of the directors?—No, to all.

860. Sir *B. Hall.*] The total amount of the outgoings consists of the repairs, and necessary repairs in relation to the bridge?—The repairs, and the expenses of collection and lighting, and of repairing the roadway.

861. What are the tolls let at?—They are not let, they are kept in hand.

862. How often do the toll-collectors render an account?—Every day, and they are checked at the turnstiles, by which we know the number of people who go through them; and with respect to the horse gate, we have means of checking that also.

863. Is there any value set upon the shares now?—There is a nominal value, which varies occasionally; and when the people imagine that Government is going to buy up the shares, they will give a little more for them. But there is another circumstance which affects their value: an annuitant cannot attend the general assemblies unless he is a shareholder; and therefore he buys a number of shares, to enable him to attend to what I may call his own business.

864. Previously to the notice of a motion to apply for this Committee, what was the nominal value of the shares?—I have 12 original shares, and which I think cost me altogether 37*l.* 10*s.*, but they vary, I think, from about 3*l.* to 5*l.* a share; I am not aware of any shareholder having sold his shares for more than 5*l.*

865. This is rather an increase from what it was?—I have no doubt that this inquiry will increase their value; speculating people in the City will say, "Government will probably purchase the bridge, and we shall get something for our shares;" and they will therefore give a trifle more for them than they usually fetch as a matter of speculation.

866. It follows that, when they heard of the intention to apply for this Committee to inquire into metropolitan bridges, the effect of that was to raise the price of these shares?—I have no doubt of it, otherwise they are worth nothing I can tell the Committee a singular fact, namely, that up to the 23d of August last, the debt due to the annuitants was 2,399,937*l.* 10*s.*

867. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Including arrears?—Including arrears; this is the difference between the small dividend they have received and the annuity which they agreed to.

868. Sir *B. Hall.*] It would not be a good speculation for the ratepayers of the metropolis to buy up this bridge?—I think not; my notion about this matter is, that the bridge is an accommodation to the few people within the circuit of a mile or so, and I do not think that the public would be benefited by its being thrown open.

869. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Are the Committee to understand you to suggest that this inquiry has affected the property of the bridge detrimentally?—Yes, it would affect the property of the creditors; for instance, if I went into the market to sell any of my annuities, I should not get such a price as the return which they will bring entitles me to.

870. This inquiry appears to have raised the price of shares; in what way does it militate against the interest of the creditors of the bridge?—Because their property is sold upon an uncertain tenure.

871. In what way does this inquiry cause it to be held upon an uncertain tenure?—Because it is supposed that, if an Act of Parliament is passed to throw open the bridges, some mode of ascertaining the value of the annuities will be fixed, and creditors will be paid off under some regulation made by Act of Parliament.

872. You said just now, that the bridge was capable of accommodating three times as much traffic as goes over it now?—Yes, it could; without the least inconvenience to the public.

873. Seeing the crowded state of the Strand, and other parts of London, how do you account for the fact that there is so much space on the bridge, and that it is not used more than it is?—I can only acccount for it by the fact, that the public will go a little way out of their way in order to go over a free bridge instead of a toll bridge.

874. Therefore you probably agree with me, that the toll is a check to persons going over the bridge?—There can be no doubt of that.

875. Therefore, if the bridge should be freed from toll in any way, the public would be fully accommodated?—The bridge would admit five times as many people as now use it.

876. Sir *B. Hall.*] When you say that the value of property of the shareholders would rise, if the Committee were to report in favour of purchasing this bridge, are we to understand that your opinion is that the value of this property would rise, inasmuch as it is possible that Parliament would recommend that something should be given for property which is now valueless?—Keeping in mind the distinction which I have made between shareholders and creditors, I think that it is clear that the value of shares may rise; because the proprietors think that, although it has merely an imaginary value, Parliament will not take it away entirely without giving them something for it; and they would speculate upon that something, seeing that their shares are now worth nothing. I trust I have now made my meaning clear.

876*. You mean to say that, inasmuch as something would be given to the shareholders, that would increase the value of their property, because it is now valueless?—Yes; it would increase the value of the property of the shareholders, but not that of the creditors.

877. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] If the shareholders received compensation for the bridge, would they give any portion of it to the annuitants?—That would depend upon the Act of Parliament. But I think that all the money for which this bridge should be sold, ought to be divided among the creditors; the others are entitled to nothing; but if a Government measure be passed taking the property from the possessors, of course they must make compensation for it.

878. Mr. *Jackson.*] You are not, I suppose, for one moment entertaining the idea that the Government, if they took compulsory powers to purchase the bridge, would consider the amount of debt upon it or the amount it cost; would they not simply consider the amount of debt upon it, without reference to the debt on the original cost?—There could not be any doubt about that.

879. Therefore, if they gave a quarter of a million or 100,000 *l.* for it, that 100,000 *l.* would go probably to the creditors, and not to the shareholders?—Yes, it would go to them, whatever the amount might be.

880. By the creditors you mean the annuitants?—Yes.

881. The annuitants having built the bridge, must be treated in the same manner as those who engaged in the original undertaking?—Without doubt that must be taken into consideration in fixing the amount of compensation; but there is one thing that must be mentioned, namely, that the greater part of the property is now in the hands of holders who have bought it at the usual market price.

882. Therefore if the public bought the bridge, the present creditors would not suffer so seriously as we might be led to suppose by seeing the amount of the original debt?—No; at the same time, any system which is adopted must be a compromise, because the returns of the bridge are increasing annually in an arithmetical series.

883. That must be taken into consideration?—Certainly.

884. Although the returns are increasing progressively, it will be some time before they pay five per cent. upon the original debt?—No man in his senses who has looked into the matter could ever fancy such a thing possible; nothing

Mr. *J. Plews.*

23 May 1854.

could ever make it pay that rate, but this gradual increase is paying the present holders of annuities very well.

885. If the ratepayers of the metropolis were to pay the owners of the bridge, they would have it at a comparatively small cost?—I do not know that; it depends entirely upon the value of the bridge. I have a notion that they could not build a bridge for much less money than it cost. You may build a light iron bridge for a trifle, but you cannot build a substantial stone bridge, like Waterloo or London Bridge, for much less than their original cost.

886. If they could construct a bridge which would cost 250,000 *l.* instead of 2 ½ millions, and which would answer every purpose of the other, you do not think that the ratepayers would spend such a large sum?—There is nothing in my evidence which would lead to the conclusion that our bridge cost 2 ½ millions.

887. Sir *J. Shelley.*] You are now expressing the opinions of the creditors whom you have spoken of?—Yes; I believe that if an Act was passed to pay the creditors according to a fair and reasonable estimate, they would be satisfied; but at the same time, I may say that I do not wish Parliament to interfere with them at all; the original shareholders might, I dare say.

888. Speaking now for the creditors, would not they much prefer that Parliament should give them some remuneration, according to a fair valuation, than that the ratepayers and Parliament should build a toll-free bridge alongside of this bridge, to take your traffic?—I think they would, certainly; but I think it would be a very difficult thing. For instance, the chief part of the money borrowed upon bond, amounting to 54,550 *l.*, was borrowed at a time when the scarcity of money was such that they could not get it from any public office. At last, I believe, Lord Crawford, who has since died, agreed to furnish the greater part of the money, upon the consideration that the company should be unable to redeem them under 999 years. How could Parliament deal with a matter of that kind?

889. Mr. *Jackson.*] Could not an Act of Parliament meet that difficulty?—I should imagine than an Act of Parliament would not be passed to cancel a sealed bond without giving an equivalent compensation.

890. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Were you rightly understood to say that the tolls were not let, but kept in hand by the directors for the benefit of the creditors?—That is so.

891. You depend upon your turn-tables for the correctness of the returns of the collectors?—Yes; they furnish a check upon the toll-collectors.

892. Have you ever heard any statements as to the experiments that were tried at the Great Exhibition with regard to the accuracy of these tables?—I have not.

893. Mr. *Jackson.*] Have the company had any negotiations with the Government about the purchase of this bridge at any time?—No; I believe some little inquiry was made by the Government, but it ended in nothing; there was an inquiry as to the cost of this bridge and of Southwark Bridge.

894. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Have the directors, at any meeting of the Board, considered the probability, or the possibility, of this bridge being purchased by Government?—It has never been considered as a matter connected with the business of the bridge; the directors may have their own individual opinions, but certainly, as a body, they have never discussed the question at all.

895. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You were understood to say just now, that the bridge would be capable of admitting five or six times the present traffic, if necessary?—I have no doubt of it.

896. Is it not a very populous neighbourhood near the place where your bridge crosses the river?—It is.

897. The attention of the Committee has been called to the hinderance which a toll-gate gives to the traffic; is not that very great?—It does not stop the traffic in such a way as to render it any public inconvenience.

898. The question referred to the paying of the toll?—I think that does not cause much hinderance.

899. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] There is no great number of people going over the bridge?—There is not.

900. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] With respect to the foot-passengers, of course the toll could not be reduced; but with regard to the carriage traffic, does it not occur to you that, under these circumstances, the carriage traffic might be much lower than it is?—No; any carriage drawn by one horse can pass for a toll of 2*d.*, whether it be a gentleman with his gig, or a single-horse cart; and for every additional

Mr. *J. Plews.*

23 May 1854.

additional horse, without reference to what it is drawing, a penny is charged; they are as low, I think, as they possibly can be.

901. Mr. *Locke.*] Were you rightly understood to say, that there was no loss of time occasioned in passing over the bridge?—I think there is no loss of time which causes any real inconvenience; there is no more loss of time than you would suffer in passing though a turnpike gate.

902. Taking the case of a person driving over in a carriage, is there not a loss of time caused by stopping there?—There is just as much loss of time in passing through a turnpike gate anywhere else.

903. You have said that the bridge was capable of admitting five times as much traffic as at present passes over it; if there were five times as much traffic, would there not be a considerable inconvenience felt in passing, through the tolls?—I do not think there would.

904. Mr. *Jackson.*] If there were 10 times as much traffic would there not be some inconvenience caused?—If there were a greater traffic than the bridge could accommodate, you would, without doubt, suffer some inconvenience, but there is no probability of there being 10 times the present amount of traffic over the bridge, because it is not a business part of the city.

905. There is a very large railway station near, is there not?—There is.

906. Is there not a great traffic of passengers to the railway?—Yes; when the trains come in, a great number of passengers pass over the bridge, and in consequence of that the company have set a double staff of toll collectors on the bridge. There was some inconvenience felt at first, but now there is none; formerly we only used to take the toll on one side, and we felt an inconvenience from the rush just at that time, and therefore we put twice the number of toll collectors at the gates, and all the inconvenience ceased.

907. Sir *J. Shelley.*] You have heard it stated that persons in trade have been seriously imposed upon by servants with carts going over the toll-paying bridges; do not they find that the servants charge the toll, and hurry the horses round the other way?—I have heard that the servants have been in the habit of saying that they have been so many times over Waterloo Bridge, and their masters gave them the money; but in order to check this it has been made generally known to carmen that their men can always have a ticket at Waterloo Bridge, which would effectually check the practice.

908. Is that plan acted upon to any great extent by persons in trade?—I have no doubt about it; but I dare say that the secretary will know the quantity of tickets that are annually issued.

909. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Were you understood to say, that the amount borrowed by the company was half a million?—Yes; half a million was borrowed from the annuitants, and 54,000 *l.* upon bonds, so that there was 554,000 *l.* borrowed altogether.

910. And by the failure in paying, the debt has now grown to the sum of 2,000,000 *l.*?—Exactly. The whole sum is 2,399,937 *l.* 10*s.*, up to August last.

911. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] The original interest payable upon the annuities was more than five per cent.?—It was, but the interest upon the bonds takes precedence of the annuities; and there is no dividend paid upon the bonds. We appropriate the income from the tolls, first in paying the outgoings, and next in paying interest upon the bonds; the residue is divided among the annuitants.

Mr. *George Powell,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *G. Powell.*

912. *Chairman.*] YOU are the Chief Clerk of Waterloo Bridge?—I am, and also the surveyor.

913. As I moved for this Committee to inquire into the Metropolitan Bridges upon public grounds, I should like you to tell the Committee what number of shares I hold in this undertaking?—It is very small, but I cannot state the exact number.

914. Is it more than five?—I cannot tell without reference to the books.

915. I think I purchased in 1845 or 1846, 35 shares?—Yes; I think you have about 40 altogether.

916. In 1850 or 1851, I think, the proprietors of the bridge did me the honour to elect me a director?—Yes; you were elected a director at that time.

917. Upon which, I think, I purchased a few of your annuities; I believe 12?—Yes, that is the case.

Mr. *G. Powell.*

23 May 1854.

918. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] How many shares are required to qualify a person to be a director?—Five.

919. Sir *J. Duke.*] That would involve an expenditure of 15 *l.*?—Yes, at the rate of 3 *l.* a share; now, at 5 *l.* a share, it would cost 25 *l.* I may state that this has been the price for a considerable time past; long before this Committee was appointed. I think Mr. Plews, who gave evidence upon that point, was under a mistake; the shares were at 5 *l.* 5*s.* and 5 *l.* 10*s.* long before this Committee was appointed; and they have fetched about the same price since.

920. What is the opinion of your directors, exclusive of myself, upon the subject of this inquiry?—I believe every one regrets that it has taken place.

921. They do not wish, in fact, any negotiations?—They do not. They are most of them large holders of annuities; and they find that their interest is increasing every year, and is likely to increase in future; and, of course, they are not desirous of parting with a prospective property without adequate remuneration.

922. So that, by moving for this Committee, I have not increased my popularity at your board?—Not in the least. I may state it as a fact, that the directors, as a body, were opposed to it; and it was brought forward by you without any communication whatever with any of the directors; it was not mooted at the board till you had given notice of the motion to The House.

923. What is the state of Waterloo Bridge as to its solidity?—I gave evidence before the Committee of 1828, and I say now, as I said then, that it is as firm as the Rock of Gibraltar. I viewed the progress of the work from its commencement to its completion, almost daily; I am well acquainted with its construction. But Mr. Plews has so well described that, that it is not necessary for me to make any observation upon it.

924. Have you any statements which show the whole amount of the cost of the bridge, the debt, and also the returns of the tolls?—I have. We have no debt. In fact, with the exception of the amount which has accrued by the non-payment to the annuitants of the full amount of their annuities, the company do not owe 6 *d.*

925. That you call arrears of annuities?—That is arrears of annuities.

926. Mr. *Jackson.*] What is the amount of the bonds which Lord Crawford took?—That forms part of the 54,000 *l.* which was the last sum raised by the company.

927. That is a debt, is not it?—That is a debt; and as to the property of the annuitants in this bridge, they are precisely in the position of mortgagees; 500,000 *l.* was raised upon shares, and an additional sum of 500,000 *l.* by mortgaging the tolls; so that all the revenue of the bridge is mortgaged to the annuitants, upon the condition that they were to receive 15 *l.* for their 100 *l.* The money was advanced at two periods, in sums of 60 *l.* and 40 *l.*; this annuity was 15 per cent. upon 100 *l.*, but it was only 7½ per cent. upon 200 *l.*; and it should be borne in mind that these annuities were granted to shareholders. When the 60 *l.* was granted, it was not considered as 8 *l.* for the 60 *l.*, but 5 *l.* for the 100 *l.*, and 3 *l.* for the 60 *l.*, being 5 per cent. upon the money already advanced by the shareholders at the time. The same plan was adopted with respect to the additional 200,000 *l.*, which was raised by giving 7 *l.* for 40 *l.*, which was 5 *l.* for the 100 *l.* and 2 *l.* for the 40 *l.*

928. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Then the second 100 *l.*, in fact, are preference shares?—Yes, that is the fact.

929. Sir *B. Hall.*] Is the Committee to understand that when you granted the two several sums of 100 *l.* each, that 15 per cent. was paid as interest to certain parties who had advanced 100 *l.* as a first investment; and, not receiving any interest upon that sum, advanced a second sum of 100 *l.*, upon which 15 per cent. was to be paid, which, in your estimation, gave 7 *l.* 10*s.* for each of the 100 *l.*?—Yes.

930. Mr. *Jackson.*] If a party who had 100 *l.* share stock took 100 *l.* priority stock, it is the priority stock which gets the whole dividend, the rest of the stock getting none?—Clearly, with the exception of the interest paid upon the bond for 54,000 *l.*, that is the first charge; and the next is the payment of the annuitants of 60 *l.* and 40 *l.* shares, who are the priority creditors.

931. No one could get an annuity of 15 *l.* per cent. upon the second shares, who did not hold 100 *l.* original stock?—Clearly.

932. So that they have the whole 15 per cent. when they have paid the 200 *l.*

Therefore,

91

Mr. G. Powell.

23 May 1854.

Therefore, the annuities received the whole amount of the dividends, and the shares none?—Clearly the interest of the shares was absorbed in the annuity.

933. Have you an estimate of the cost of the bridge?—I have.

934. *Chairman.*] What was the total cost of the structure?—The cost of the bridge and the approaches was 937,391 *l.* 11 *s.* 3 *d.* The bridge cost 618,369 *l.* 11 *s.* 4 *d.*, including the Parliamentary expenses.

935. Mr. *Locke.*] What is the cost of the bridge as it is now estimated?—We cannot increase the cost of the bridge by the arrears of interest. The amount of the arrears of interest is the debt due to the annuitants, which does not form any part of the cost of the bridge, because it has occurred since the bridge was opened.

936. Was the whole of the money for the entire construction of the bridge approaches raised by shares and annuities?—Yes.

937. So that any other sum that may be supposed to attach to that bridge, arises entirely from the unpaid interest?—Completely.

938. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is the 54,000 *l.* included in the 937,391 *l.* 11 *s.* 3 *d.* which you have mentioned?—The 54,000 *l.* is part of the money raised. The sum mentioned in the question, is the money expended.

939. Then the cost included the 54,000 *l.*?—Yes; part of that went to complete the bridge.

940. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Will you give the Committee a full account of the money raised?—In the first place, there were 4,763 100 *l.* shares, which realised 476,000 *l.* Then there were 3,000 of what are called 60 *l.* annuities raised; there were only 4,763 shares, which is not quite 5,000, but the annuities were raised upon 5,000 shares, and these 5,000 60 *l.* shares realised 300,000 *l.* There were also 5,000 40 *l.* shares, which produced 200,000 *l.* Thus you get the 500,000 *l.*, and that, together, with the bonds for 54,552 *l.*, gives us a total of 554,552 *l.*

941. The bond was taken by Lord Crawford?—Part of it was taken by Lord Crawford.

942. Was it all raised about the same time?—Yes; that makes the total of money raised to be 1,030,852 *l.*

943. Mr. *Jackson.*] The 54,000 *l.* has a prior claim over the annuities of the shareholders?—Certainly.

944. After paying the current expenses, the repair of the roadway, the expense of erecting the toll-gates, salaries, and incidentals, the next charge is the interest upon the 54,000 *l.*?—Yes; that has a priority over all the other securities. We have only two descriptions of securities; the bonds have a priority, and the two classes of annuities, although raised at different periods, share *pari passu.*

945. Can you tell the Committee what per-centage is now payable, after deducting the interest upon the 54,000 *l.*, upon the first annuities of 60 *l.*?—I should say it is exactly three per cent. upon the annuities.

946. And upon the 40 *l.*, what interest is paid?—The same.

947. In fact, there is no difference between the two?—They pay the same per-centage; the 15 *l.* is divided between them; one takes 8 *l.*, and the other 7 *l.*

948. Sir *J. Shelley.*] I understand you to say that the 60 *l.* annuities were granted to the original shareholders?—Yes.

949. And to no one else?—There were a few of them who had more than their share; but they were all granted to shareholders.

950. There were 4,763 original shares, and you afterwards created 5,000 in two instances; what became of the difference between the 4,763 and the 5,000?—The money was raised by the shareholders; there were some of the shareholders that did not take the annuities, and some were incapacitated, and could not. Then it was determined that the sum not subscribed for by the shareholders should be divided amongst those who subscribed; I think it gave about the eighth of an annuity to each shareholder, and many shareholders were entitled. It probably may explain it better by taking an example: a shareholder of five shares was entitled to five 60 *l.* annuities; if that shareholder wished for six annuities, he had to buy up the shares of others. There was also a surplus to make the exact money of 500,000 *l.*; there were one-eighth annuities, which went to the mortgagees; and, in fact, it was arranged at the office, principally by the parties who signified their desire to purchase additional annuities. The shares bore a premium at the time of about 15 per cent.

951. Did they appear upon the papers given to the parties purchasing them as shares, or did you call them annuities?—We called them annuities; an annuity deed was given to each purchaser.

Mr. *G. Powell.*

23 May 1854.

952. Mr. *Jackson.*] If a party, who was not a shareholder, wished to purchase some of these annuities, how would he have obtained them?—He would have applied to the shareholders; the whole of the money was raised by shareholders.

953. What is the present worth of a 60 *l.* annuity?—They are selling at about 29 *l.* 10 *s.*, and the 40 *l.* annuities are worth about 25 *l.*

954. Mr. *Locke.*] Were you rightly understood to say, that the first shares and the annuities, and the 54,552 *l.* of bonds, making a total of 1,030,852 *l.*, were all the sums advanced upon the credit of the tolls?—Yes.

955. You have also stated that the bridge cost 937,391 *l.* 11 *s.* 3 *d.*, is not that so?—Yes.

956. The difference between those two sums is 93,461 *l.*; will you tell the Committee how that sum was raised?—I have stated that a considerable amount of income arose from interest upon the money raised; I should also state, that the City of London, before they would allow a stone to be laid or a pile driven, required the Bridge Company to deposit 50,000 *l.* in the Bank of England. The reason of this was, that it was said by Mr. Mylne, the engineer who built Blackfriars Bridge, that it was utterly impossible to build a bridge on the site of the present Waterloo Bridge, and that if it was attempted it would remain as a monument of the ignorance of the man who attempted it; and therefore the City of London required 50,000 *l.* to be deposited in the Bank of England before they would allow a pile to be driven into the river; and that 50,000 *l.* which was so impounded could not be released, until they were satisfied that that 50,000 *l.* was sufficient to complete the superstructure. Therefore during the progress of the bridge we regularly received the interest of this 50,000 *l.*, and therefore there is another sum to be added to the amount of the capital of the company, which was not raised, but arose from the money raised by the shares forfeited.

957. Have you a statement of the entire sum raised?—I have stated the capital raised to be 1,030,852 *l.*; there was an additional sum of 28,612 *l.* 15 *l.* 5 *d.* arising from interest, fines, and shares forfeited, making a total of 1,059,464 *l.* 15 *s.* 5 *d.* Now I will account for that. I have stated the cost of the undertaking to be 937,991 *l.* 11 *s.* 3 *d.*; there was paid for interest upon shares which was paid out of the capital, and for the 8 *l.* annuities upon the 300,000 *l.* which was raised during the progress of the work and before its completion, a sum of 122,073 *l.* 4 *s.* 2 *d.*, making a corresponding total.

958. *Chairman.*] Was the 50,000 *l.* deposited in the bank paid back by the City?—It was paid when the surveyor certified that that sum would be sufficient for the completion of the superstructure.

959. Mr. *Locke.*] So that in fact the shareholders have received 122,073 *l.* 4 *s.* 2 *d.*?—Certainly; the shareholders received five per cent. upon the several instalments, and they also received the proper amount of annuity for a short period.

960. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] How many shares were forfeited?—I do not know exactly, but in round numbers about 150.

961. Those 150 shares that were forfeited were entitled to so many annuity bonds paying 15 per cent.; who had those bonds?—They were divided among the several annuitants who subscribed, but I cannot tell you who they were.

962. Mr. *Locke.*] They were divided rateably among those who had the first interest?—Certainly.

963. Sir *J. Duke.*] Have you found any inconvenience in the use of the turnstiles?—None whatever.

964. Have you any opinion upon the subject yourself, as to whether there are likely to be any errors in them?—I have not.

965. Have you ever heard that there was an error in them?—There is only one way by which the company could be defrauded by these turnstiles, and that is by the toll-collector allowing two parties to pass through at once.

966. You are perfectly satisfied in your own mind that the bridge is safe from fraud?—I have attended to it for more than 30 years, and that is my opinion.

967. Did you ever hear, in any place where the same arrangement was adopted, of any errors being detected in the action of the turnstiles?—Yes, I have, and parties have come to me about it, and I have shown them how utterly impossible it was that any error should arise, if you check the toll-man.

968. Did you take any trouble to ascertain how the error had arisen, in the case of the Great Exhibition?—It could only be by two people passing through at the same time.

969. Might

93

Mr. *G. Powell.*

23 May 1854.

969. Might not there be some error in the machinery for registration?—I do not see how that is possible.

970. Have you given yourself the trouble to ascertain how the error arose?—I will admit that our machine gets out of order sometimes, but then it shows it at once; I do not mean to say that they are not out of order occasionally.

971. Then of course the machine becomes defective?—Yes, just as a clock occasionally gets out of order, and does not go correctly; but in that case, you send for the clockmaker, and he puts it in order.

972. Sir *J. Shelley.*] The question was asked, in order to ascertain whether, in all probability, it would not be better policy to let the tolls?—If you were to let the tolls you would be ignorant of any increase; if the income from the tolls had arrived at its maximum, I think it would be good policy to let them; but as they are increasing every year, and there is a progressive increase, I think it would be very bad policy, because you could not tell to what extent the tolls increased.

973. Mr. *Jackson.*] Did you ever find the number of passengers who passed in one day greater than that indicated by the machine?—Certainly.

974. How can it then be correct?—It is utterly impossible to prevent it. If a crowd passes the gate, as, for instance, when a theatre is over, in pressing through, two will often pass at the same time, and if two were to pass through the space where one only should pass, the machine would indicate only one, and the toll-collector would receive his money instead of the company. The machine is locked up, and the toll-collector has no access to it, and if he had he could not alter it.

975. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Could you tell the Committee what the amount of outgoings of the bridge is?—Yes, I can give it in detail; I brought from my office the two last audits of the two last half-years, giving the wages of the toll-men, lighting, watering, oiling and cleaning indicators, coals and candles, repairs of roads, salaries to chief clerk and assistant clerk, remuneration to directors and auditors, stationery, printing, &c., and incidentals.

976. Will you hand them in?—(*The same were delivered in*).

Vide Appendix, No. 4, (A.) (B.)

977. Mr. *Locke.*] Are those tables for two consecutive half-years?—Yes; they are for the half-years ending August last and February last.

978. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is the expense pretty equally distributed over the two half-years?—No, they vary; the summer half of course is more than the winter; our accounts close in August and February.

979. Mr. *Jackson.*] Could you put in the receipts and disbursements of the last 10 years, not specifying the particulars, but the gross sum received and expended, and the amounts paid to the annuitants during that time, so as to show the Committee the progressive increase?—I have a statement before me, showing, for every half-year since the bridge was opened, the receipts for horse and foot passengers, and the several dividends paid during that period. In the last year, ending in February, our receipts were 19,197 *l.* 0 *s.* 11 *d.* for the 12 months.

980. That is a financial statement of the progress of the undertaking from its opening?—Yes. I find that I mentioned here circumstances that would influence the toll, such as the stoppage of Westminster Bridge.

981. Will you hand it in?—(*The same was delivered in*).

Vide Appendix, No. 4, (C.)

982. Have any negotiations ever been entered into with the Government with reference to purchasing this bridge?—I had a summons to attend the Select Committee upon Metropolitan Improvements in July 1836. Mr. Alderman Wood was the chairman of that Committee, and I gave evidence before it at that time similar to my present evidence, and I believe that the evidence is printed.

983. *Chairman.*] There was no negotiation entered into by Government with respect to this particular bridge?—Never.

984. Was not some application made to the Duke of Wellington's Government about purchasing the toll bridges?—There was a scheme got up for throwing open all the toll-bridges, and the party who devised it applied to the Duke of Wellington; and I have a copy of the Duke's answer. It was Mr. Cope who got up the scheme; and this letter was written by the Duke of Wellington, in answer to an application by Mr. Cope, who, I believe, put a few hundred pounds in his pocket, without ever having intended to open the bridges:—"London, 7th May 1839. The Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Mr. Cope, and has received his letter. The Duke understands the bridges to which Mr. Cope refers, as requiring the non-payment of tolls for the use thereof by passengers, are private property. The Duke begs leave distinctly to decline to be a party to

Mr. *G. Powell.*

23 May 1854.

carry into execution any measure which shall have for its object to deprive the individual proprietors of the bridges of their property, without full compensation and their consent. If the public require the accommodation of having the use of the bridges without the payment of toll, the Government should communicate with the proprietors of them, and treat with them for the purchase of their property. As the Duke is not the Government, he can have nothing to say to the affair."

George Rennie, Esq., called in; and Examined.

G. Rennie, Esq.

985. *Chairman.*] YOU are well acquainted, I believe, with Southwark Bridge?—Yes.

986. In your opinion, is it in a sound condition?—It is.

987. In all respects?—In all respects.

988. Are the approaches good?—The approaches are as good as they ever were. I do not admire the approaches; they appear to me to be reproaches.

989. Have you any knowledge of the traffic which at present passes over the bridge?—I have not; the secretary will speak to that.

990. Do you think that it would be desirable to throw it open to facilitate the traffic of the metropolis?—I do think so.

991. Where would you provide the funds from?—It is hardly the province of an engineer to answer that question.

992. What did the bridge cost?—I have understood that it cost between 600,000*l.* and 700,000*l.*

993. Can you give us the official statements with regard to the bridge?—No; the secretary will do that, or the chairman.

994. If it were made an open bridge, do you think it would be sufficiently strong to bear the increased traffic?—Certainly; it is capable of bearing itself, and therefore it is capable of bearing any traffic that can go over it. I beg to state that I have recently made a report upon the state of the bridge, which perhaps might be of use to the Committee.

995. Will you hand it in to the Committee?—

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows*:]

Sir, Holland-street, 30 January 1854.

HEREWITH I send you the accompanying plan of the abutments and piers of the Southwark Bridge; also, the sections of the bed of the river under the bridge, as indicated by the soundings in blue circles when taken last May, 1853. The results of this survey were, that the whole of the masonry and foundations, with the exception of the joints between courses (which require fresh pointing) was in the most perfect state, and no settlement could be detected in the levels nor any crack in the masonry. The bed of the river had attained its regimen or section given to it by the current, and no holes or partial corrosions were found in the bottom. The iron-work, consisting of the whole of the three arches, including the segments, cross plates, abutting plates, and diagonal strutts and wrought iron keys and wedges, was in the most perfect state of preservation (care having been taken to protect it by paint or), and not a crack was visible in any part, and the arches were in a perfect state of equilibrium. As regards the effects of expansion, it was satisfactorily proved by the late Mr. Rennie, and Messrs. Walker of Rotherham, in 1820, that the greatest expansion or elongation on a length of 231 feet of the cornice of one of the arches between the hours of three A. M. and five P. M. in several of the hottest days of the summer of that year, was only one inch; and subsequently, according to a careful series of experiments made on the rise and fall of those arches by Sir John Rennie and myself, the average rise and fall for the extremes of temperature was only $\frac{1}{40}$ of an inch for every 10 degrees, or $\frac{3}{40}$ of an inch in all for 40 degrees: a quantity almost insensible, but in no case affecting the pressure on the piers and abutments, as the arches rise and fall with every increase and decrease of temperature, a fact peculiar to all bridges, whether of iron or stone. In conclusion, I have no hesitation in giving it as my opinion, that the bridge is not only as firm as when first erected, but that it will bear, with perfect security, as much traffic as either of the metropolitan bridges.

I remain, &c,

James Leith, Esq., (signed) *George Rennie.*
Secretary, Southwark Bridge Company.

Joshua Walker, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Walker, Esq.

996. *Chairman.*] ARE you a Director of Southwark Bridge?—I am.

997. Will you favour the Committee with such information as you have with regard to its financial condition; will you tell us what it cost?—I have a statement here of the exact cost, which I think you are asking for; and, with the permission

95

J. Walker, Esq.

23 May 1854.

permission of the Committee, I will put the statement in. With regard to the tolls and expenses paid, the secretary has possessed himself of that information, and he will lay it before the Committee in a much more elaborate manner than I can do. This paper states the amount which has been raised, and the manner in which it has been expended, and the different classes of shares in the undertaking.

998. The whole cost is 666,000 *l.*?—Yes, it is.

999. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Does it include the annuities?—Yes, it includes everything; there are no annuities.

1000. *Chairman.*] Do you think, if Southwark Bridge were thrown open, it would facilitate the traffic of the eastern part of the metropolis?—Decidedly. I do not think there can be two opinions upon the subject, that it would afford great relief to the traffic over London Bridge. Nobody in the City can keep an appointment with satisfaction to themselves, or make appointments with any degree of comfort to their business, on account of the crowded state of the City.

1001. You think that, by throwing open Southwark Bridge, the construction of another bridge in the locality would be rendered unnecessary?—I think it would be unnecessary; but there would then be considerable alterations required in the approaches.

1002. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Have you had any estimate formed of the cost of those alterations?—No; I am not aware what course the City of London will take; they have been in treaty for the bridge, but I do not know what course they will take.

1003. *Chairman.*] It is your opinion that, if this bridge were thrown open, the City would, in fact, have all the accommodation which is necessary?—Yes, if it were accompanied by an alteration in the approaches; they have a very fine street now from St. Paul's to London Bridge, but that gives no additional relief to London Bridge.

1004. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] The approach from Blackman-street to the bridge is pretty good?—Pretty good on the other side. You must get across Thames-street; and I have no doubt it would be necessary that an arch should be thrown over that street, as has been suggested before.

1005. That is necessary, in your opinion, in order to make the bridge what it should be?—I have studied it a good deal, but not as a practical man or an engineer, but merely as a matter of traffic.

1006. Mr. *Jackson.*] Then you would make the road almost level from Cheapside?—Not from Cheapside; it would not require to go nearly so high as Cheapside, nor yet as Cannon-street.

1007. About midway between the two?—Yes, between Cannon-street and the bridge.

1008. Have you ever had an estimate made of the cost of improving the approaches?—Never.

1009. The Bridge Company have never contemplated that course themselves?—No, they have not; their financial position has not been very satisfactory, and therefore they have not felt that it was within their power.

James Leith, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Leith, Esq

1010. *Chairman.*] ARE you the Secretary of the Southwark Bridge Company?—I am.

1011. Will you favour the Committee with what you know of its financial condition, revenue, and expenses?—It has been of a very varied nature, commencing with the time when old London Bridge was standing, and continuing during the progress and opening of the new London Bridge; the income was then very different from what it is now. Before the year 1831, when new London Bridge was opened, we had an income of 7,000 *l.*; in 1831 it was reduced to 6,800 *l.*; in 1832 to 4,544 *l.*; in 1833 to 4,528 *l.*; in 1834 to 3,983 *l.*

1012. Will you hand that in?—(*The same was delivered in*).

Vide Appendix, No. 5, (D.)

1013. What is the amount of expenditure?—I stated it in the Committee of 1836 at 1,200 *l*, and we have made that a standard of our annual expenditure; in fact, we have been obliged to keep it at that amount. And with regard to the repair of the roads and such like, we have managed from one year to another to keep the bridge in very good repair. At the same time, the directors have never had any salary whatever; they never had a halfpenny for 40 years, nor even a cup of coffee.

J Leith, Esq.

23 May 1854.

1014. Mr. *Jackson.*] What dividend has been paid on the shares?—Just one per cent., that is, 10 *s.* for each; they are only 50 *l.* shares, and a proportionate amount has been paid upon the 5,000 shares.

1015. The second issue of 5,000 get nothing?—Yes, they get a proportionate part; in fact, it was a sum raised of 150,000 *l.*

1016. And the old proprietors got nothing?—The old proprietors never had a halfpenny. The subscribers of 456,000 *l.* of it never received a halfpenny.

1017. What is the price of your shares?—There is no price; parties call upon me frequently with shares to sell or buy, and I have recommended them, under present circumstances, to do neither the one nor the other.

1018. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Would it not tend very much to depreciate the value of the property of Southwark Bridge, if a free bridge were to be made across the river from Doctors' Commons?—I do not think it would much affect it, for I think it is in such a situation, that ours is almost entirely the local traffic of the neighbourhood; it is now in such a state, that I can almost tell from the nature of the day what the tolls ought to be, without checking the amount.

1019. Mr. *Locke.*] Would the company feel any hesitation in testing what the bridge would do, by throwing it open for six months, reserving their right to take toll again?—There are various opinions upon that point; some people have gone so far as to say it would be better to throw it open, even if you got no remuneration for 12 months; others do not agree in that opinion. It is a mere matter of opinion; it has never been a deliberated question by directors or proprietors.

1020. Do you think the traffic would be increased until its capabilities are tested?—I have a document here which perhaps may throw light upon the capabilities of the bridge. The last time that London Bridge was repaired it was partially shut up, in order to repair one side while the other was going on. I have taken an estimate of the carriage tolls; our other tolls were very little affected by it; for each week there is a great regularity in the amount, and one would have thought, that having formed the habit of going that way, they would have continued it, but the fact is, that the very day that London Bridge was re-opened, the extra traffic ceased.

1021. What was the increase?—The increase was such as would have been equal to between 8,000 *l.* and 9,000 *l.* a year, consisting chiefly of the very heaviest class of waggons; we had four classes of waggons: thus, of the 2 *d.* class of waggons we had 3,764; of the 3 *d.* class, that is, with a horse extra, we had 3,616; of the 4 *d.*, 1,733; and of the highest class, 512; that has been uniform.

1022. Will you hand in the document you referred to just now?—I will. Here is also a statement of the total receipts, and the total amount of dividends paid since the building of the bridge. (*The same were handed in.*)

Vide Appendix, No. 5, (E.) (F.)

1023. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] At the time new London Bridge was built, then the bridge was entirely closed?—Yes, but old London Bridge was there.

1024. Was old London Bridge closed during the building of new London Bridge?—No, it was open for all classes of traffic during that period, but not equal to half the traffic.

1025. While new London Bridge was being built, you had 7,600 *l.* a year?—Yes.

1026. And it has fallen off since it opened?—It has gradually lessened. Another thing has affected us considerably, namely, the short omnibuses; many people from the Elephant and Castle, that used to come daily and pay the toll, can ride for a penny or twopence from the Elephant and Castle; that takes away a great portion of our traffic.

1027. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Supposing the bridge were made toll-free, can you form any opinion what the increase of traffic would be?—I think it would divide the traffic with London Bridge. I have stated that before, and I have had various conversations with Messrs. Chaplin & Horne. I believe the steepness of the gradient would not form any obstruction.

1028. Supposing that to be correct, in the event of your bridge being thrown open, and of its dividing the traffic equally with London Bridge, do you think that those two bridges would meet the demand?—It would relieve London Bridge.

1029. Do you think it would be as much as would be required, at any rate, at present?—I think so.

1030. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] I think I understood your statement, that you had

had 1,700 *l.* a year to divide?—We have only 1,500 *l.*, the smallest dividend ever paid. *J. Leith*, Esq.

1031. The income is 2,900 *l.* and the outgoings 1,200 *l.*?—It is. But we allow a certain fixed dividend, and if we have more than that, we carry it on to next year, or we rather improve the bridge; or if there is any deficiency in the bridge, or approaches, we take the opportunity of remedying it as far as the surplus will permit. 23 May 1854.

John Pym, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1032. *Chairman.*] WILL you explain to the Committee the nature of your scheme for improving the thoroughfares of London?—I have here a paper containing a short description and estimate of my plan, which I will, with the permission of the Committee, hand in. *J. Pym*, Esq.

[*The same was delivered in; and is as follows:*]

METROPOLITAN SUPER-WAY.

The street traffic of the metropolis having outgrown the width and number of the thoroughfares, and it being evident that the new streets now in course of formation in the City will prove insufficient to meet the increasing traffic, I take leave to submit to your Committee a plan that would at once relieve the City, and its immediate environs, of the obstructions to which they are at present subjected, and prevent their recurrence in future, and in other respects be a great boon to the public.

I beg to state that the plan is not one now for the first time suggested, as in 1851 I submitted a similar one to Mr. Chaplin, and the directors of the South-western Railway, for the conveyance of their passengers from Waterloo Station to Cannon-street, in the City; but for reasons never stated it was not entertained.

The following is a rough outline of the Plan, which I designate

A Super-Way.

1. That a tubular way, similar to the Britannia Bridge on the Chester and Holyhead line, should be carried on columns of masonry from the South-eastern Railway Station at London Bridge across the Thames, to the stations of the Blackwall and Eastern Counties Railways. (*See* Plan No. 1.) *Vide* Plan (II.) at the end.

Then, a similar line westward from the Blackwall Station to St. Paul's, and on to Charing-cross. Next a line west from Bishopsgate-street, near the Eastern Counties Station, to Holborn Bridge, up Holborn to Tottenham Court-road. A third line from the London Bridge Station, westward, to the Waterloo Station, on to Westminster; with one or more additional cross lines to unite the east and west lines at several points, say between Blackfriars and Waterloo Bridges to Holborn, and another from Westminster to Charing-cross, thence to the junction of Oxford-street and Tottenham Court-road, with branch lines to the Elephant and Castle, to Whitechapel Church, to Shoreditch Church, to the Angel, Islington, to King's Cross, to Euston-square, to Lambeth, and to such other points in the principal thoroughfares as may be found desirable. (*See* dotted line, Plan 4.) *Vide* Plan (V.) at the end.

2. That this tubular way should be carried on columns of masonry, sufficiently high to pass over the tops of the houses, or other buildings along the line, without injury to the property beneath, except the space required for the columns; the lines to be in the rear of the principal streets. (*See* Plan No. 2.) *Vide* Plan (III.) at the end.

3. That the tube should be wide enough for a double line of railway, and the carriages or trains to be of light construction, and propelled by a stationary engine or magnetic power.

4. That stations be established at all the principal cross streets, and at the termini and junctions of the Super-way.

5. That to save the passengers the inconvenience of ascending to and descending from the Super-way, they should be raised and lowered in chambers by the aid of machinery.

6. That a train of carriages should be passing up and down the lines without intermission; or, at the furthest, every five minutes.

7. That the lines should be open from six in the morning until ten at night.

8. That there should be first and second class carriages, fares, 3*d.* and 1*d.*, for all distances.

By a careful selection of the lines, none of the present thoroughfares or public buildings need be interfered with. The length of each tube, from column to column, would vary with circumstances from 200 feet to 300 feet, making about 20 columns per mile. The latter length of tube, with two columns, would take it across the Thames; one length would cross the widest thoroughfare, without interfering with the houses on either side of a street. (*See* Plans 2 and 3.) *Vide* Plans (III. & IV.) at the end.

J. Pym, Esq.

23 May 1854.

Instead of raising the tubes after being made, as was done in the erection of the Britannia Bridge, they may be built from column to column as the line progressed; this would greatly lessen the time and labour required in the construction of the line.

The tube would be lighted by ornamental windows on each side, and by gas by night, and warmed and ventilated according to the season of the year.

Passengers would be conveyed to or from London Bridge to Oxford-street, or along any other part of the line, in one-third of the time at present occupied.

Some of the advantages of this undertaking would be as follows:

1. That the thoroughfares from Charing-cross and Oxford-street to the Bank, Cornhill, Fenchurch-street, and London Bridge, would be cleared of full three-fourths of the present number of omnibuses and cabs, and one-third of its foot-passengers.

2. That the public would have a sheltered and speedy conveyance, without interruption by fog or snow, from one point of the most crowded part of the metropolis to another, at a charge of 1 *d.*

3. That by using the stations of the Super-way as receiving houses, or sub-post offices, the efficiency of the General Post-office would be greatly extended.

4. That by uniting, in such a manner as here proposed, the metropolitan termini of all the railways, the net-work of our railway system would be complete; as every line of railway would be accessible from any point of the metropolis to which the Super-way extended, and every resident within its limits would have, as it were, a station for all the railways at his own door; and this great advantage would be secured without the nuisance of having a central station in or near the City, as contemplated. None of the projected railways would give facilities for reaching the Crystal Palace equal to the Super-way. Should it be necessary to buy the land and property along the whole line, it may be immediately resold at near its cost, as the Super-way would not deteriorate the property, but give additional value to all the property within its limits.

The columns would average about 65 feet in height. The tube would not be required to be half the weight of the Britannia Bridge tubing, as the trains need not be more than one-tenth of the weight of a railway passenger train, as the ponderous locomotive and tender would be dispensed with.

The length of the three east and west lines, and three cross lines, would be about 8 ½ miles, which would involve an outlay (including the purchase of land) of about 5,000,000 *l.*; but as much of the land purchased would resell for as much as it cost, the ultimate cost of the undertaking would not exceed 4,250,000 *l.*

This extent of Super-way would produce a revenue of 10,000 *l.* per week, or 520,000 *l.* per annum.

The wear and tear, and working cost of such a line, would not exceed 20 per cent. on the returns, which would leave a dividend of about 10 per cent. per annum, on an outlay of 4,250,000 *l.*

Believing that no argument is required to show the necessity of providing some remedy for the evils that arise from our over-crowded streets, I have refrained from doing more than simply describe a plan, and give an approximate estimate of the cost of carrying it out; confident that the whole work may be executed for less than the sum named, and within three years of its commencement.

John Pym.

Rough Estimate for Metropolitan Super-way per Mile.

	£.
20 Columns, or Piers of Brick-work, each 1,040 cubic yards, at per yard, 25*s.*	26,000
20 Tubes, 156 feet in circumference, $\frac{3}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch iron, say 600 tons (all included) at 30*l.*	360,000
Land for Basement of Columns, say for each, 2,000*l.*	40,000
Consideration to be paid to owners and occupiers for houses and property passed over, say 200 houses at 250*l.*	50,000
Legal and Preliminary Expenses	24,000
Per mile £.	500,000
8 ½ Miles, at 500,000*l.* per mile	4,250,000

PASSENGER TRAFFIC of the Metropolis.

J. Pym, Esq.

23 May 1854.

The Steam-boats above Bridge carry 11,000,000 passengers, annually, about		per day	32,000
The North London Railway		„	13,000
The Blackwall Railway		„	10,000
The Greenwich Railway		„	6,000
The Omnibuses carry		„	110,000
The Cabs carry		„	30,000
Private vehicles, (no return)	(estimated at)	„	5,000
Pedestrians who pass over the area of the proposed Super-way	„	„	250,000
Passengers arriving at, and departing from, the London Termini of the Great Trunk Lines of Railway	„	„	50,000
TOTAL per day			506,000

ESTIMATED RETURN of Metropolitan Super-Way.

		£.
One-half of the above, say	50,000 Passengers daily, at 3*d.*	625
	200,000 - Ditto - - 1*d.*	833
	Would yield per day - - £.	1,458

Or, 10,206 *l.* per week.

John Pym.

Jovis, 15° die Junii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Oliveira.	Lord Robert Grosvenor
Mr. Wilkinson.	Sir James Duke.
Mr. Alderman Cubitt.	Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Pellatt.	Mr. Locke.
Lord Alfred Hervey.	Sir Benjamin Hall.

BENJAMIN OLIVEIRA, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

William Tite, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. Tite, Esq.

15 June 1854.

1033. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are very well acquainted with the state and condition of the bridges in the metropolis?—Yes, I think I am generally.

1034. Will you be so good as to state to the Committee whether, in your opinion, there are sufficient bridges for the traffic at present existing?—I think not. I think you want two more free bridges for the crowded part of the City. The defect might be diminished, doubtless, by the opening of Southwark Bridge; but still I think that there is a great want of communication between Southwark Bridge and Blackfriars. I should beg to propose a scheme, which I might illustrate by this plan (*producing the same*). This is a sheet of the Ordnance survey. This line of communication from Goswell-street and Aldersgate-street to the east end of St. Paul's, is the great line of communication from the North Western, the Great Western, and the Great Northern Railway termini. That small triangle is the piece of land at the east end of St. Paul's, which has been so much in discussion. Now, it appears to me that if you could continue that line from south to north by a new bridge, you would greatly relieve these crowded streets

Vide Plan (VI.) at the end.

W. Tite, Esq.

15 June 1854.

streets that pass east and west. This is, in truth, something like the plan which has been suggested in the City to the Corporation by Mr. Bennoch. I am not quite sure that it is quite identical with that plan, but it is probably formed upon the same principle. I think this suggestion might be carried out without any extravagant cost. I can state what would be the cost of the bridge, but not the cost of the approaches. In the plan which I produce to the Committee, the light-coloured part is the present street; the darker lines mark what will have to be bought for the purposes of the improvements. It appears to me that it is a very desirable line of communication; that it is extremely wanted, and would greatly relieve the traffic of the City. Another bridge might be placed somewhere about Essex-street; that perhaps is not so pressing a necessity. This bridge would start from the middle of the Strand. But though that plan has been often projected, it does not appear to me that the necessity for it is so great as for the improvement I mentioned first. It has been also suggested (I think an Act of Parliament was passed for the purpose) to make a bridge at the Horseferry-road. Probably the degree of convenience of these three schemes would be very much in the order in which they appear on the map; that is to say, the first is very much wanted; the second would be a great convenience; the third would be of third-rate convenience.

1035. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Do not you think that a bridge starting from Charing Cross would be a great convenience?—Yes, undoubtedly it would.

1036. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is not there a great amount of traffic there at present? There can be no doubt of it, but that is very much relieved by the foot-bridge which crosses the river at that point. If that foot-bridge could be turned into a carriage-bridge, as has already been projected, undoubtedly that should be done; but at all events, so far as it goes, it is a great relief, as every one knows that the traffic to the South Western Railway alone, with which I am well acquainted, is very great indeed.

1037. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do not you think that a street starting from Northumberland House, supposing the present chain-bridge were made into a carriage-bridge, would be a greater relief than a new bridge between Blackfriars and Waterloo?—I am a little doubtful of that, judging from all that one sees going on at present and likely to arise in future. There is a line of railway projected, and now in the House of Commons, and which probably will pass, which ends at the Post-office, and if that traffic is poured out in addition to what there is at present, I can hardly conceive how the communication will be carried on through those crowded thoroughfares east and west. The Committee will see marked on this map the great line of traffic from those three great railway termini at the north of London.

1038. Mr. *Pellatt.*] All this part you consider to be so much crowded now, that to have a new bridge in the direction of St. Paul's would be the first and most pressing want?—So it appears to me, from what I see; for just at this point the traffic turns one way to get to London Bridge and the other way to get to Blackfriars Bridge.

1039. Sir *J. Duke.*] That would relieve Blackfriars Bridge very much?—Yes, so it appears to me. Undoubtedly, if you could have all the three bridges which I suggest, they are all desirable; but, in looking at possibilities, you must simply look at what is most wanted, and it appears to me that this is the most wanted.

1040. Mr. *Jackson.*] If you were called upon, without reference to the cost of construction, to state what you thought necessary for this portion of the metropolis, would you consider that Charing Cross Bridge would give the accommodation to the public which is so much wanted?—Yes, I think I should.

1041. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Confining it to that?—Yes.

1042. Mr. *Jackson.*] In the event of all these bridges being thrown open, and paid for by the public, would you consider it advisable that the chain-bridge should be thrown open, and should become the property of the public with the other bridges?—Yes.

1043. Mr. *Pellatt.*] That you would consider as most important?—Yes.

1044. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] What is your opinion as to the importance of a road in that direction in connexion with any new bridges that may be made. You have on your plans a line in that direction, marked red?—That is the road that exists at present, though I propose to widen and improve it. It is now, I think, principally known as the Lower Marsh and the New Cut.

1045. Is

1045. Is it your opinion that the communication in that neighbourhood very much wants improving, and that such improvement must be taken into the question of accommodation?—There can be no doubt about it; it might very easily be done, as there is already a communication by means of Union-street.

1046. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Have you seen the Government plan for a road from Westminster Bridge to Blackfriars?—Yes, I have; it is Mr. Pennethorne's plan.

1047. That would be much more expensive than the one you suggest?—Yes; my plan is simply for improving what already exists; that is a plan for making an entirely new road.

1048. Have you made any estimate of the cost of the improvements which you suggest?—Yes; I have made a slight estimate of the cost of the bridges, with the assistance of a gentleman who is conversant with these matters. I believe that the bridge opposite Old Change might be built for about 200,000 *l.*, without the approaches; I believe that the bridge opposite Essex-street, which I propose to be a suspension-bridge, might be built for 150,000 *l.*; and that the bridge opposite the Horseferry-road would cost about 170,000 *l.*; that is the sum proposed.

1049. That being a suspension-bridge also?—No; the last would be a bridge of seven spans, of 130 feet each, upon the same principles as the bridge at the Old Change, with arches of stone. I think that that is a fair approximate estimate of the expense of the bridges; the approaches would form an independent estimate.

1050. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] With regard to these particular bridges which you propose, you mentioned that the bridge that you considered most necessary was the bridge which corresponds to Aldersgate-street?—Yes.

1051. What is the inclination of the ground on the Surrey side of the bridge; is it very steep or not?—I apprehend that it must be very much like Southwark Bridge, because I do not think that the character of the ground changes much between the two sites; I think that you must pass Bankside by an arch, and then get into a varying level; I do not think you can get into the natural level of the land on that side; that would of course increase the expense of the approaches.

1052. That would be so far an objection to your scheme?—No; it does not appear to me that it would lead to any great inconvenience, because by the time you reach the inclination shown on the map, you would reach the natural level west of Bankside.

1053. With regard to the Middlesex side what will the gradient be?—I should apprehend that there would be no difficulty on the London side. Passing from the level of the land, the point in St. Paul's Churchyard of which I have spoken, I should think that we might get a reasonable gradient along the street leading to the bridge without any great difficulty.

1054. Would you make an arch over Thames-street?—I should not like to do that, if I could avoid it. There is the same inclination, and to a great extent there are the same natural circumstances, as on the Middlesex side of Southwark Bridge; and with regard to crossing Thames-street by an arch, there certainly would be some conveniences about it, because you can more readily maintain the north and south communication, and you would relieve Thames-street from all the traffic, which would pass clear over it. But, at the same time, the cost of the undertaking would be considerably enhanced by doing so, because it would be necessary to buy so much property on each side of the road.

1055. Is not it within your knowledge that carriers very much object to anything approaching to a steep gradient in the metropolis?—I have no doubt that it would be very desirable to avoid a steep gradient.

1056. Mr. *Locke.*] Do you recollect what the gradient is on Southwark Bridge?—No; the gradient down Queen-street is, I think, 1 in 40, or something near that; but I do not exactly know what it is. Without doubt, if you can encounter the expense which would be incurred by taking the bridge at the natural level of St. Paul's Churchyard, and carrying the road right across Thames-street, it would be a desirable thing in many points of view. I have perhaps taken too small a view of the importance of the improvements that are now contemplated. It would be perhaps better to propose to carry the bridge at the higher level, and try to obtain the means of doing so.

W. Tite, Esq.

15 June 1854.

1057. *Chairman.*] With regard to the question of funds, how would you propose to provide the funds for these improvements?—I dare say that my opinion will be very unpopular, but I do not myself think that the coal duty operates unfairly; I think it is far better than a local rate. I do not know whether it is the opinion of the Committee, or of people generally, that these things ought to be done at the expense of the metropolis generally, but it is my opinion that the cost should be borne by a local charge, and I have never heard that the coal duty was very much objected to, as inconsistent with the principles of fair trade; it appears to me to be a very convenient way of raising a large sum of money; and inasmuch as I believe the coal duty is charged up to 1860, when it expires altogether, I think a small additional coal duty would be raised without much inconvenience.

1058. Mr. *Jackson.*] Is it not a great tax upon manufacturers?—I think generally that the great manufactories which are carried on in London would not be prevented from competition by having to pay a tax of 1*s.* 1*d.* in the chaldron.

1059. Must not a tax of 20 per cent. upon the coals used in the manufactories be of great importance?—The manufacturers must answer for themselves; but I think that the extremely skilled labour which you find in London is not so dependent upon the tax as that of another character. We get our cast iron from places where the iron and coal are found together. The better class of iron, and the cutlery and other articles of the same sort which are manufactured in London, obtain a price which I think would very well bear a tax; I do not see how the money could be obtained without some local charge. I think that such a tax, or a tax of the same sort, is open to no objection. I have a house in the West End, and also one in the City; and I know the local rates in both districts, and the local rates in the City are double those at the West End, rent for rent; they are felt to be very onerous, and any increase would produce great dissatisfaction. Now, the French system of paying an octroi is perfectly out of the question; and it also seems to me that a moderate duty of that kind must be far more fairly spread than anything else.

1060. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] In your opinion it would be quite fair that the area of any tax which may be imposed for the purpose should be co-extensive with the area of the coal tax?—I think so; I am obliged to go from my house in Lowndes-square to my place of business; now I could not reckon upon going within an hour, though only four miles, on account of the crowded state of the thoroughfares; and even supposing a gentleman whose business does not happen to be in the City, the convenience is as much to him as it would be to me; it is quite as fair that a man living in Lowndes-square should bear his part of the burden, as the man living within the 680 acres which are included in the City of London.

1061. It is not from any particular affection for the coal tax that you recommend it to be continued, but you think that the tax, whatever it is, should be laid over that area?—I think that there can be no more convenient mode of raising the money required for metropolitan improvements than that I propose; it does not appear to me to press heavily upon the trades which I am connected and acquainted with, and these from my professional engagements are very numerous.

1062. Mr. *Jackson.*] If any other tax is imposed, do you think the tax should be spread over the same area as the coal tax?—I do; I think it is a metropolitan question, and not a local one.

1063. *Chairman.*] Do you think that if the present toll-paying bridges were thrown open, that would relieve the metropolis a great deal?—It would have a very considerable effect upon it. With regard to Southwark Bridge, that is not to be compared with any other bridge at present. The opening of Southwark Bridge without doubt would be a great relief, for the impediment which the toll seems to cause to the communication across that bridge, notwithstanding the excessively crowded state of London Bridge, is very extraordinary; men do not use this bridge, because they have to pay 2 *d.* in going over it.

1064. Mr. *Jackson.*] Is it not with many a question of time rather than a question of money?—I think not; you gain time by using this bridge. I constantly have to come to this house, or to this end of the town from the City, and I almost always go by this bridge because it is the nearest way, but still I do not find that the rest of the world imitates my example to any very great extent. I do not mean to say that the bridge is conveniently placed, but that you do not find

find that it is used even by gentlemen in cabs; they either go by Blackfriars Bridge, or, if they are a little further east, they take London Bridge.

1065. If Southwark Bridge were thrown open, it would be the interest of the cabmen to use it?—There can be no doubt of it.

1066. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Are the approaches to Southwark Bridge on the London side good?—I think in the main they are; they have been very much improved by the widening of Queen-street, and of the adjoining part of New Cannon-street leading to it, so that it is now far more convenient than it used to be. There is a good broad street starting from St. Paul's, and ending just at the foot of London Bridge on the London side; and then Queen-street is widened; so that, together with the access to Queen-street, the bridge is now very well off in that particular.

1067. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is not the gradient objectionably steep?—I dare say it is for the purposes of trade; I think that is very likely; but for light purposes I do not think the gradient is faulty.

1068. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Would not the present difficulty with regard to Southwark Bridge be, the difficulty of access on the Surrey side, which would involve the new road which you have mentioned?—Yes; if you travel on the Surrey side you are apt to get a little embarrassed.

1069. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] With regard to the crowded state of London Bridge, are you aware that there has been a project brought before this Committee for the purpose of putting a footpath outside?—I am.

1070. Will you give the Committee your opinion, as an architect, as to the desirableness of such an alteration. Will you tell us whether you think it would interfere with the bridge in an architectural point of view?—I think it would certainly interfere with the architectural propriety of the bridge; whether that is to be made to yield to the utility of the scheme may be a fair question; considering the massive character of the bridge, the present parapet is suitable to it; but supposing that to be taken away, and the footpath supported on brackets or cantalivers, the light parapet that must be substituted would have an unfortunate effect in an architectural point of view.

1071. Have you seen the proposed plan?—I have.

1072. Do you think that the bridge you have proposed in the line of Old Change and Aldersgate-street would relieve London Bridge to such a degree, as to render any further alteration unnecessary?—I do not.

1073. Do you think that the improvement that would most conduce to that end would be the opening of Southwark Bridge?—Yes; the opening of Southwark Bridge has been a favourite object of mine; at one time, I think it might have been done without any expense to the public, but unhappily the Corporation of London considered that it was its duty to oppose it, and that led to the abandonment of the scheme at that time, which was when it was brought forward by the North Kent Railway and strongly supported; it was proposed to bring the railway across the bridge, and make the terminus at the bottom of Queen-street; the railway company agreed to buy the bridge for 300,000*l.* if the Corporation would let them come into the City, and to open half of the bridge to the public for nothing; they made that proposal to the Corporation of London, but the Corporation of London considered that the bringing the terminus there would lead to much greater evils than the opening of the bridge would produce advantage, and they refused it, and instructed their officers to oppose that part of the Bill; the consequence was, that the project assumed the shape of a line from the back of Union-street to North Kent, and it appeared to me that this incidental opposition defeated the scheme altogether; at the time there was a good deal of alarm expressed at the prospect of having a road bridge by the side of a railway bridge; that alarm was not well founded. There is a bridge of precisely the same kind in Dresden, which was built expressly upon that very condition, viz. that half should be used for the railway, and half for the ordinary purposes of the City; there was before that an old bridge at Dresden, and this added a second, and I can speak from my experience at that bridge; I passed in a carriage, and everything seemed to be so arranged, that although the railway trains were passing constantly with the carriages, I saw no frightening of horses, or anything of the sort.

1074. Mr. *Locke.*] Did you travel across that bridge whilst there was a train coming?—Constantly, with a common hired carriage of the city. There is

W. Tite, Esq.

15 June 1854.

nothing in the world but a light iron railing between the one and the other. I would have brought a drawing of it if it had occurred to me.

1075. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Do you make due allowance for the difference between the German and the English horse?—I introduce that as an instance of something which has been actually done, which I met with to my exceeding surprise and great gratification, because I have considered that in many places (Newcastle is a case in point), if you could have united the two things, namely, a carriage bridge and a railway bridge, you might have made the bridge at a less cost; and in many other cases there is no doubt that the same thing might have been done. At Lancaster, for example, if the bridge could have been a railway bridge and a road bridge, it would have been of great use to the public.

1076. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is it not the fact that at London Bridge the carriages are standing there constantly when the engines are coming to the station?—Yes. I brought forward the case of Dresden, because it is a small and crowded city, and I thought it very much in point upon that subject.

1077. Mr. *Jackson.*] How long has it been finished?—I should think it has been finished about five years. If the Committee sits again, I will bring you a bird's-eye view of it, which will show the bridge and the line of railway upon it.

1078. You are strongly of opinion that the necessity of the City calls for immediate changes and improvements with regard to the bridges of the metropolis?—I am; and I think the first thing to be done is without doubt to open Southwark Bridge. I think that would do a great deal. If you were to do anything further, my own impression is that ought to be done in the way which I have suggested.

1079. *Chairman.*] Are you of opinion that the cost and expense for the execution of your scheme should be borne by a rate extending over the area of the coal tax?—I think it should be done by some contribution extending over an area as large as that of the coal tax.

1080. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Do you think that at present, supposing the whole of London to be under one municipality, which had the power of rating some district for the purpose of metropolitan improvements, they would be justified in the present state of affairs, provided Southwark Bridge were thrown open, in going to the expense of an additional bridge, such as you have suggested, connected with Aldersgate-street?—I should think so. But still, if one could take one step first, and perceive what the result of the opening of Southwark Bridge would be with regard, particularly, to relieving London Bridge, I think that step should be taken and its effect ascertained before anybody was taxed unnecessarily. I would wait to see if this railway terminus, which is talked of at the Post-office, is to be made or not. My impression is, that if the communication between the Great Western, and probably the North Western and the Great Northern, is to come into the neighbourhood of the Post-office, the inconvenience will be extremely great, unless there is some means of getting rid of the passengers. When I consider the character of the passengers who would be brought here, and turned out at this point at the rate (as they speak of trains every five minutes) of perhaps 20,000 people a day, I think the inconvenience would be excessive, unless there were some direct north and south communication. I think, therefore, that I would rather wait. If I had the power and means, I would open Southwark Bridge, and then see what is the effect of that as regards further improvement.

1081. *Chairman.*] It is the opinion of a great number of persons, that the readiest way to relieve the present leading communications of London would be to throw open the toll-bridges, and to make good communications between those bridges on the Surrey side, and the great thoroughfares leading to the railway termini on the south side of the river, by improving the communications in the Lambeth and Southwark districts; is that your opinion?—Decidedly.

1082. You have spoken about the coal tax; as far as your experience in the City goes, do you find that the coal duty is objected to. Have you considered the subject, as to what the extent of area should be over which that tax should be levied?—I do not know what extent that is. I have an impression that it is coincident with the extent of the Metropolitan Sewers Act, but I am not quite sure.

1083. Have you considered the question at all with a view to giving an opinion

opinion as to what the extent of it should be?—No, I am not quite conversant with it, because I do not quite know how the tax is collected. I recollect hearing incidentally that there is a toll taken at Watford, and therefore having that fact in my memory, I should say that I do not certainly think that the tax should be spread over a district so extensive as to reach to Watford.

1084. You have not considered the question?—As regards the extreme extent of it, I have not. When I gave my former answer, I had in my mind what would probably be the extent of the metropolis under the Building Act; but the question which has just been put has led me to recollect the fact that there is a tax paid at Watford, and that induces me to qualify my answer.

1085. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you know what distance Croydon is from London?—Yes.

1086. I believe it is a fact that many gentlemen residing in Croydon come up to London every day?—Yes.

1087. Do not you think that that district should be within the area of taxation, seeing that the gentlemen who live there cross London Bridge twice a day?—It would seem to be reasonable, certainly.

1088. All the suburban districts round London have access to their places of business?—Not to the same extent; it is the case at Croydon, but on the Watford side of the City it is not so to the same extent.

1089. You are aware that there is a large amount of building going on in that neighbourhood?—I know something about the speculation at Harrow, but I do not think it will go on very fast.

1090. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Considering the great increase of the means of conveyance by railway from the metropolis, and the increased habit of persons carrying on business in London, living within 20 miles of London, are you still of opinion that 20 miles would be too large?—Yes, I think it is.

1091. Mr. *Locke.*] Are you aware what the extent of the coal tax ought to be in order to pay the cost of the improvements which you have suggested?—A very small tax would be sufficient, but I really do not know the exact amount; I have been told that if the coal tax could be continued one year longer the land at St. Paul's, that I have spoken of, could be secured to the public. Now that is valued on all hands at 60,000*l.*; I think, therefore, that if that is so, a very much smaller tax than 13*d.*, continued after the tax ceases to be raised, would provide a large sum of money, particularly with the increase of London in all directions.

1092. Mr. *J. Duke.*] Does not the tax produce 80,000*l.* a year?—I really do not know; I only know that we are told that if we can induce the Government to give us the tax for one year, that piece of land may be secured.

1093. *Chairman.*] Are you acquainted with the state of the bridges of the metropolis, as to their solidity?—I am. I am a good deal acquainted with Blackfriars Bridge, because I was a member of the Corporation of London when they undertook to repair it, and I think a very large sum of money was spent upon it under Mr. James Walker. I then saw it as a member of the committee, and I know pretty well its condition. I also know its history from the fact of Mr. Mylne, who built it, being a very eminent architect, and from the circumstances of its erection being curious. I was concerned also with London Bridge, and I knew every step of the work. I was concerned also in estimating the cost of it; so that in this way I became very much acquainted with the circumstances of the bridges, and the mode of their construction.

1094. Mr. *Locke.*] What is the state of Blackfriars Bridge?—It is, I should suppose, altogether supported by the scaffolding. I should suppose it would fall into the river if the centres were removed.

1095. Was the centre placed upon any additional piles, or upon the old foundation?—I presume that it was placed upon additional piles. I can hardly conceive that any one would be guilty of the folly of resting it upon the old foundation.

1096. The piles obstruct the navigation of the river?—Very much indeed. The change which has taken place in the bed of the river is still going on, and I think that it has not been looked upon in a view wide enough. For example, the pulling down of Westminster Bridge, which is to be rebuilt, will affect the matter. They are going to put a bridge with five arches, instead of one with a great many. Then, no doubt, the water will flow upwards with greater violence. The French have had a case of this kind at Tours, where they have met the

W. Tite, Esq.

15 June 1854.

difficulty, to a very great extent, and their plan would apply, so far as I know, to this river; there the river was changing very much indeed, and the bridge became dangerous; but they have maintained the bed of the river by putting a dam across it, so as to maintain the bottom or floor of the river at that point at one uniform level. I do not mention this as a suggestion of my own. But a gentleman of the name of Mr. Burnell presented a memorial upon this subject to the City authorities which I thought of sufficient importance to advocate so far as I could. In it he shows what has been done at Tours; and he believes that if what he suggests had been done (and I am much of his opinion) it would have allowed of the repair of the bridges, and kept the bed of the river in its present state. He would be prepared to explain the matter himself better than I can do it; but in the meantime I may say that he would maintain the bed of the river by putting a dam across it, as was done by the French engineers; the upper level thereby remaining unchanged.

1097. Would not that prevent any scouring of the river itself?—It does not appear to me that it would produce any inconvenience.

1098. Are you aware whether the river down to London Bridge has been improved by the rebuilding of London Bridge?—Very greatly indeed.

1099. Your dam would keep the river up much in the same way as old London Bridge did?—London Bridge was a dam which kept the river up; that being removed, all circumstances combined to open the stream, and to prevent the destruction of Blackfriars Bridge and Westminster Bridge this suggestion was offered.

1100. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] I suppose you are aware that some plans are before Parliament for the purpose of taking the sewage of the City of London into the river?—Yes, I am.

1101. It would be materially decreased by that plan?—Yes, it would. There is also a scheme for making an embankment along the side of the river, which would have that result; but if this were done in conjunction with them, I do not think that result would follow.

1102. Mr. *Jackson.*] Would not an impediment to the flow of the tide be an injury to the navigation of the river?—Yes, if there were an impediment.

1103. Would not this dam be an impediment?—I think not, if it simply maintained the bed of the river.

1104. It would modify the action of the tide?—Yes.

1105. There is no flow of tide at Tours, is there?—No; but the river there is subject to violent floods.

1106. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Would not this dam create a fall in the river?—No, certainly not; that point was raised, and that point was met. There was no fall at Tours in the time of the floods.

1107. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] As a gentleman of great eminence in your profession, you have mentioned that your opinion was favourable to a dam; the Committee would be glad if you would state your reasons for entertaining such an opinion, because the Committee consider that such a dam would injure the flow of the tide of the river, and be exceedingly prejudicial to the navigation?—The best answer that I could give to that question would be to read some portions of this report by Mr. Burnell. I ask attention to it, because it appeared to me that he had met in this report the objections that have been just suggested. He shows that it would not produce that effect upon the tide which is apprehended, but that it would maintain the level of the bed of the river unchanged, let the bridges be changed in any manner you please. The case that was quoted as to Tours is certainly not quite applicable with respect to the tide, but it is entirely so with respect to the violent floods which come to the river, and it is not alleged, as I understand or found to be the fact, that the descending waters have any violent fall at that point.

1108. Does not the placing of a dam involve the retaining a certain portion of the ebbing water which would otherwise flow into the sea?—In my judgment the dam proposed would not. The interference with the water caused by old London Bridge was very great indeed; it was a dam not only of height, but it was a dam covering probably more than one-third of the surface of the river; at all times of the tide the ascending and the descending tides contended; the tide below the bridge could not flow up, and the tide above could not escape, through the arches; but when the bridge was taken down, the two things coincided and the fall disappeared.

1109. Was

1109. Was not the great number of arches in that bridge the reason why the tide did not flow properly, but flowed more rapidly than it now flows?—Certainly.

1110. The tide having less impediment scours upwards, the water going towards the ascent with a greater scouring power; is not that an effect for improving navigation purposes?—With regard to the water flowing up the river, the change that has taken place has been of that character, but the mischievous change that has taken place has been the washing away of the bed of the river.

1111. If the water below the bridges were of a greater quantity, you can get a greater scouring force, which would go to improve the navigation below the bridges; but if you do anything which would prevent the fresh water from coming down, that would hinder the navigation below the bridges?—Those are abstract principles which cannot be denied, but the interference with the navigation is a question of degree.

1112. Mr. *Jackson.*] Of course you will admit that the first and most serious matter is to keep the navigation free?—There can be no doubt of it; and if this suggestion would have the effect of interfering with that, of course it ought to be absolutely negatived at once upon the abstract principle.

1113. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is not it the fact that the bed of the river was never so frequently dry in the time of the old London Bridge as it is now?—There can be no doubt of that.

1114. And therefore these difficulties with regard to the navigation above the bridge at any rate were never so great as they are now?—There is great difficulty in the navigation at present above the bridge, and with regard to the navigation below the bridge, it is quite independent of the quantity of water which is poured out. I may explain to the Committee that I know a good deal of the wharves between London Bridge and the Tower; my experience has led me to consider a great deal of the scouring power on the Fresh Wharf (Adelaide Wharf, London Bridge, which is the name by which it is better known); I know this, that at the time when I built that great wharf there, there was about 16 feet of water in the ordinary tide, and I know that there is now not more than 12.

1115. Mr. *Jackson.*] What is it at spring tide?—I cannot tell, but I know this, that at those wharves where a large amount of water is required at all times of the tide in order to enable the great steamers which come up the river to swing round, they cannot maintain it without a constant system of dredging; that was not the case at the time when the old London Bridge was in existence.

1116. Would not the old London Bridge have had the effect of keeping in suspension a large quantity of water that would otherwise act as a scouring power to that particular portion of the river?—I should think so.

1117. Is not it the fact that a large body of water used to go through the arch and scour it out?—There was a fall at old London Bridge, which I have seen amounting to as much as six feet.

1118. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Do not you think that that will account for the facts that you have stated?—I do not think that accounts for them, because at the corner the line of the wharf is at the land pier of the bridge.

1119. Mr. *Locke.*] Has there not been a diminution of water to the extent of four feet below the high-water mark at London Bridge since the building of the new structure?—There has; I cannot account for it, but I know the fact.

1120. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Was not that expected before, at the time of the old bridge, that it was possible that the tide would operate with great force upon the bed of the river?—That does not account for the change at this place.

1121. Mr. *Locke.*] Will you mention to the Committee to what extent on the other side of the bridge you find this statement to hold good?—I know of its existence as far as the Tower.

1122. At a distance of about half a mile?—That is, 2,400 feet.

1123. It is your opinion that any scour passing from London Bridge would not affect the river to so great a distance as that?—I think not, nor did it at the time I am speaking of; there was then a large pier which stood out before it and protected it from the immediate action of the water, but it was one of those anomalies which have happened since London Bridge has been removed. The most extraordinary events have taken place, some of which are quite incomprehensible.

1124. Have there not been other changes on the banks of the Thames, which may have aided in producing this result?—There may have been such, but it

W. Tite, Esq.

15 June 1854.

appears to me that the scour has been rather in the centre of the river than on the banks; that it has affected the centre and left the shores, and, as far as my experience goes in this case, I think that the making of this dam would tend to maintain the uniformity of level, not to put an obstruction and prevent the action of the scour.

1125. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Besides the great effect which was predicted at the time of the building of old London Bridge by those who had given their attention to the matter, namely, the deepening of the channel of the river above bridge, did not they predict that it would be attended with the danger to the bridges that has actually come to pass?—I am not quite sure of that. I remember Mr. Telford's report about it, which he made at the time, and I know that he suggested that the tide would flow higher and ebb out quicker than it had done before; but I do not think there was any supposition at the time that the bed of the river would be changed so as to lay bare the foundations of the bridge.

1126. Looking at the matter now, you do not think it at all unnatural that such things should have happened?—I am quite unable to answer that question; I must confess that there are some things which appear to me matters of extreme difficulty, about which I should say that one sees them, and therefore it must be so; but how they have happened, I cannot tell; there is an exceedingly great inequality in the character of the bed of the river; I have met with a seam of gravel so hardened apparently by the percolation of iron as to present a very considerable obstacle to the workmen's tools; this exists in the bed of the river (wherever it does exist) above the bed of clay; I made this discovery in building the wharf of which I have spoken. The existence of a hard bed of stone in the bed of the river upon a bed of clay, appears to me to be a more likely reason for the irregularity of the alterations that have taken place, than the suggestion of the mere removal of the bridge changing the character of the river.

1127. We are desired to examine and to report to the House upon the state of the bridges, which of course must depend upon the state of the river. Do you think that we ought to examine into the question of this dam?—I would just ask the Committee to do this. The gentleman who projected this plan is in the room at my instance, and I think it would be convenient, as he prepared this report, and has informed himself of all the circumstances, that he should explain the matter himself; you would then in a few minutes see if you think that the facts which he has gathered together can support his theory. He is an engineer by profession, which I am not, and I only know him to be a man of talent, who has paid particular attention to matters of this kind; he drew up a memorial which I felt to be worthy of notice, as it met a great difficulty, and I got it considered by the Navigation Committee; but I do not know what they have done with it; perhaps they have other business to attend to. If you think it desirable to pursue the investigation, you have the means of doing so.

1128. Although you are not an engineer, you have been so much concerned with works on the banks of the river that you have a considerable knowledge of its state?—I have.

1129. Is it your opinion that changes have taken place in the current of the river, by which the position of several of the bridges has become very precarious?—There can be no doubt of it.

Thomas Page, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

Thomas Page, Esq.

1130. *Chairman.*] I THINK you wish to give the Committee some further information?—I have drawn up this memorandum (*producing the same*), in the shape of a letter to yourself, which contains a suggestion for a bridge below London Bridge. I was asked by the Committee about the bridge opposite St. Paul's, and I had not then sufficiently considered the best mode of providing for the traffic; since that time I have taken into consideration the amount of traffic in the whole of the district east of London Bridge, which consists of about 16 square miles on each side of the river, and I have given my ideas in this memorandum for the information of the Committee. The bridge which I propose would cross the river at Irongate Stairs, below the tower, and would be of such a height as would not interfere with the navigation of the Pool.

Vide Appendix, No. 7.

1131. Mr. *Jackson.*] Are the approaches at that elevation?—The approaches on the Middlesex side would be made to Tower-hill; the street now leading to St. Katharine's

Thomas Page, Esq.

15 June 1854.

St. Katharine's Docks would be left open and the bridge road carried over it; on the Surrey side, in consequence of the lower level of the ground on that side, the approaches would have to be elongated; this elevation (*producing the same*) will show the plan that I propose.

Vide Plan (VII.), No. 1, at the end.

1132. The width of the river there is not greater or so great as at some portions of the Thames above London Bridge?—No, it is 840 feet.

1133. You propose that it shall be a carriage bridge, of course?—A carriage bridge.

1134. Mr. *Jackson.*] What is the height of it to be?—Seventy feet above high water; I have ascertained by inquiry that all vessels which now come above St. Katharine's Docks would be able to pass under such a bridge by striking their topmasts. I have brought this view of the bridge over the River Dordogne, at Cubsac, near Bordeaux (*producing the same*), in order to show that the bridge which I suggest near the Tower is nothing in magnitude compared with the Cubsac bridge. The bridge which I propose is marked in red on this view, and is not much more than half the length of this great bridge which has been executed in France, while the approaches to the bridge at the Tower would be also less than the approaches to this French bridge.

Vide Plan (VII.), No. 2, at the end.

1135. What is the height of this bridge?—The height of the French bridge is 23 feet above that which I propose. It is 93 feet above the water.

1136. Sir *J. Duke.*] Is your bridge an iron bridge?—An iron suspension bridge.

1137. Mr. *Locke.*] What is the breadth of the span?—Eight hundred feet.

1138. How much is that more than Hungerford?—It is not quite 200 feet; the span of Hungerford is 636 feet.

1139. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] How far below London Bridge would it be?—Three thousand feet exactly.

1140. It is near the Pool?—Yes; I have said in this memorandum that I do not think London Bridge would be much relieved by any bridge above London Bridge, because it is impossible that any part of this great traffic, extending over miles to the east on each side of the river, and to an unlimited extent north and south, would encounter the crowded thoroughfares of the City, in order to pass over any bridge above London Bridge.

1141. Mr. *Locke.*] Do you think that the traffic is very considerable?—I think it is.

1142. Do you think that the ferries at this moment carry off a considerable amount of that?—The ferries take the foot traffic, but the carriage traffic is altogether unprovided for. The Thames Tunnel takes about a million and a quarter of passengers yearly.

1143. How far is the Thames Tunnel below the site of the bridge which you propose?—It is nearly one mile and a half from London Bridge; it is about 5,000 feet below this proposed site.

1144. Have you made any estimate of the cost of it?—I have taken the prices which we are paying for the Chelsea Bridge, and I find that a bridge 50 feet in width, with its approaches, but not including any purchase of property, would come to something less than 450,000*l.*

1145. Do you mean to say that the bridge would have a 50-feet carriage way?—No; the width of the bridge would be 50 feet, including the footways; that is three feet and a half narrower than London Bridge.

1146. Mr. *Locke.*] What is the span of the largest opening?—Eight hundred and fifty feet.

1147. Is that the same as the chain-bridge at Charing Cross?—It is 125 feet more. It is a less span than the suspension-bridge at Fribourg in Switzerland.

1148. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Are there not great natural advantages in the foundation of the bridge at Fribourg?—It passes between two very steep banks, but the foundations of its piers are carried down to the river.

1149. It is on rock on both sides?—It appeared to me so.

1150. Is that a great advantage?—It is a great advantage to have the foundations upon rock.

1151. Does not it save expense?—Yes, certainly; it saves the expense of forming a foundation by piling and concrete, as in bridges on the Thames.

1152. And contributes to the stability of the bridge?—It does.

1153. The same is the case with the Menai Bridge?—Yes.

Thomas Page, Esq.

15 June 1854.

1154. There would be no difficulty in getting foundations for the bridge?—None whatever; the banks of the river are only a few feet above the level of high water; but good foundations can be obtained by piling, and the bridge can be constructed without encumbering the river at all. The gradient of the approaches which I have taken is one in 40.

1155. *Chairman.*] How far is it from the edge of the river to the point where you reach the surface of the ground on the Surrey side?—Two thousand four hundred feet.

1156. That is half a mile?—Nearly so. I propose to divide the Surrey approach into two roads; viz., the direct road, to its intersection with the Greenwich railway, and two roads branching off from it to the east and west.

1157. Mr. *Jackson.*] From what you know of instances in which bridges have been built 100 feet high, can you inform the Committee what would be the increased cost of making the bridge 100 feet high?—Not at this moment. The expense would consist in the additional 30 feet in height of the piers, and in lengthening the approaches 1,200 feet on each side, which, on the Middlesex side, would render the approach impracticable at 1 in 40.

1158. Mr. *Locke.*] Does the bridge reach the surface of the ground by the time it reaches the South Eastern Railway?—No.

1159. At what elevation would the road be when it arrives at its intersection with the South Eastern Railway?—About 15 feet above the level of the railway.

1160. You come under the railway I suppose?—The diverging lines of road would pass under the railway, but a direct line of road could be carried over it. The bridge would form a direct communication between the South Eastern and North Eastern Railways, as its Middlesex approach is close to the Blackwall Railway at the Minories.

1161. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Would not the value of the bridge to the surrounding neighbourhood be diminished by the height at which it passes?—I think it would be compensated for by an easy gradient; it is an objection for foot passengers, but not such an objection as a steep gradient would be for carriage traffic.

1162. Would there not be some inconvenience from the fact that people would not be able to get upon the bridge though it immediately adjoined their houses?—There would be steps for foot passengers.

1163. But carriages would have to make a considerable circuit in order to arrive at the foot of the bridge?—Yes, those from warehouses adjoining the river must make a circuit, but those for through traffic would not.

1164. Mr. *Locke.*] You propose that your bridge should be 70 feet above the high-water mark?—Yes.

1165. Have you consulted the proper authorities with reference to the admission of a bridge of such a height across the Thames?—I have not consulted any authority; I have spoken to Mr. Wilkin, deputy chairman of the General Steam Navigation Company, to satisfy him that the height would be sufficient for the class of ships that pass above St. Katharine's.

1166. Are you aware that the Admiralty have objected to a height of that kind for the navigable rivers which they have had to do with?—I do not call an instance to mind just now, but that is my impression.

1167. Mr. *Jackson.*] Are you aware whether the Admiralty have not always required the height of the bridges over navigable rivers to be 100 feet?—I have heard that stated.

1168. Have they done so even with regard to bridges crossing canals?—They may have done so, but I should think that, considering the navigation as it now exists, if a metropolitan bridge provided for it, the Admiralty would not insist upon an elevation which would be a serious objection to the land traffic, and would consequently be injurious to the public.

1169. Do you see any engineering difficulty in raising the bridge 100 feet?—There would be no engineering difficulty, but it would involve considerable expense.

1170. Will you hand in your memorial, and the papers connected with it?—(*The same were handed in.*)

John Williams, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1171. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a Director of Vauxhall Bridge?—I am.

1172. Will you be so good as to tell the Committee what its present condition is?—The bridge has been examined lately by a professional man, indeed by Mr. Walker, who was the designer of the bridge, and his report was a perfectly favourable one, and that report, I think, could not be confirmed by better evidence, or by anything that I could say, than it is by the fact that Mr. Walker is himself a holder of 174 shares in the bridge, and has been so, I think, for many years past.

1173. Do the receipts from Vauxhall Bridge pay the proprietors a good rate of interest?—Not the original proprietors.

1174. Can you favour the Committee with any statement as to the financial position of the bridge?—The original cost of the bridge does not appear from the accounts which I have looked into, with the assistance of the clerk to the company. The cost of the bridge and the approaches have not been kept so distinct that I can tell you exactly what the bridge cost, but the bridge and approaches together cost about 300,000*l.*, exclusive of about 70,000*l.* for Parliamentary and legal expenses, conveyancing, &c., making the whole cost of the undertaking about 370,000*l.*

1175. What are the annual expenses of keeping the bridge in repair?—About 2,200*l.* or 2,300*l.* a year.

1176. What are the gross receipts of the company?—The gross receipts for the seven best consecutive years have been about 12,700*l.* per annum.

1177. What years were they?—They were the last years before the station of the South Western was removed from Nine Elms to the Waterloo-road.

1178. Mr. *Jackson.*] How many shares have you in the capital of the company?—I think we have 5,800.

1179. What is the nominal value of those?—£. 64.

1180. What dividend do you pay upon that 64*l.*?—The last year we paid 26*s.* a share.

1181. Is that the half-yearly or the yearly dividend?—The yearly dividend.

1182. What is the market price of your shares?—From 22*l.* to 24*l.*

1183. *Chairman.*] Would your proprietors be favourably disposed to a project for throwing the bridge open, if they received adequate compensation?—That would depend on the view taken of the future, rather than the present value of the tolls. The traffic is increasing every year, and promises very soon to reach the maximum of what it was before the railway terminus was moved. During one or two years, while the railway terminus was at Nine Elms, I think 2*l.* were divided per share.

1184. Lord *A. Hervey.*] Can you give the Committee the average receipts for the last seven years?—We have not taken it. The receipts for the last year were 11,000*l.*

1185. What were they the year before?—I cannot give you the year before that; but I have given the average receipts for the seven years before the railway terminus was moved.

1186. *Chairman.*] Do not you issue an annual report to the proprietors?—We do, stating the gross receipts and expenses.

1187. Will you favour the Committee with one of those reports?—I will furnish the Committee with that. I may say that the receipts from toll appear to have been gradually increasing at the rate of about 15*l.* a week. for four or five years last past.

1188. Will you favour the Committee with the report for the last year; and also with an account of the gross receipts for the last five years?—I will. The opening of the Crystal Palace we look forward to as a favourable turn in our affairs. I think Saturday was one of the best days on record.

1189. What did you receive on Saturday?—I think we received about 80*l.*

1190. Mr. *Jackson.*] Will you put in a statement showing the amount of your capital?—I will.

1191. Lord *A. Hervey.*] Is the company in debt?—We are in debt about 7,000*l.*

1192. Will you include that in your statement?—I will.

J. Williams, Esq.

15 June 1854.

1193. Mr. *Jackson.*] Have you made a report for the last year?—We have.

1194. Is there in the report a statement of the amount of obligations?—Precisely; it contains a statement of everything.

1195. Will you furnish the Committee with one of those reports?—I will.

Benjamin Worthy Horne, Esq., called in; and Examined.

B. W. Horne, Esq.

1196. *Chairman.*] I believe you can furnish the Committee with some valuable information with reference to the increasing traffic of London?—I can, more particularly with regard to that at Southwark Bridge; we are peculiarly situated there; because our business naturally is very extensive, and I suppose we take our fair share of the streets of London. We have within the last 12 months very considerably decreased our traffic through the City, with the exception of London Bridge; and London Bridge we now use more than we have ever done, and we shall use it a great deal more yet.

1197. Does that arise from the absence of toll there?—Of course, as far as possible, we avoid paying toll, inasmuch as we have three or four horses to each vehicle; and, therefore, it becomes expensive; but independently of that, we have recently opened a large establishment at Haydon-square, for the purpose of removing the business with the West End and Camden Town. The carts go to London Bridge, and then enter Tower-street, and find their way to the Minories; therefore, instead of going through the City, as we used to do, we now load and unload the goods direct to and from the North of England, to the extent of as much as 3,000 tons a week between ourselves and Pickford's & Co. With regard to the Borough business, instead of taking it, as we used do, a portion over Southwark Bridge, and a portion over Blackfriars Bridge to Camden Town, we now take it on to Haydon-square; therefore our business over London Bridge is increasing, and, of course, we find the inconvenience arising from the crowded state of that bridge.

1198. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Would not it be a great relief if the traffic over London Bridge were less?—Of course, to have the traffic lessened would be a great advantage.

1199. *Chairman.*] Where would you suggest having another bridge?—None, but to throw the iron bridge open. When we had business greater than we now have, I endeavoured to get the tolls taken off Southwark Bridge, and in fact most of the South-western business used to go that way. We used to pay the toll in preference to going over Blackfriars or London Bridge, but of course those tolls amounted to so much, that whenever we could avoid it we did. All goods from the Borough that must go to the Great Western, to the Great Northern, and the other railroad, that is to say, the London and North-western, which is the most heavily loaded out of London, must cross the river; and it seems that the place to cross for this purpose is not over London Bridge, but over Blackfriars or the iron bridge. I should say that the iron bridge would be the best bridge for that purpose. For, in the first place, if you came over the iron bridge to New Cannon-street, you would go straight up Aldersgate-street, and find a way to the Great Northern, and the North-western railroad, and so avoid Fleet-street, where there is a hill, and also Holborn-hill. Therefore I am an advocate for throwing open Southwark Bridge.

1200. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you think that if that bridge were thrown open, the traffic would go over it, so as to relieve London Bridge?—I think a great amount of traffic would do so, but in particular the branch traffic to the south of London. Because, first of all, it is easy of access; and though the approaches are bad on the Surrey side, yet when you get over it that is not of much consequence.

1201. You are more an advocate for the opening of Southwark Bridge than for building a new one?—My opinion is, that if the bridge ran towards the Surrey side, south of the Borough, we should not use it at all; but if we could get down Queen-street, and over the iron bridge, everything out of Cheapside, which is almost the emporium of the City, the traffic would then come down over the iron bridge, through Southwark, to the South-western Railway and Borough.

1202. Do you think that a bridge three quarters of a mile from the present Southwark Bridge would be useful to that district?—We should use it in going from Bermondsey to the North-western Railway station.

1203. If that bridge were built three quarters of a mile below the present bridge,

bridge, you would use it for the purpose of taking traffic from Haydon-square?—Most certainly, and relieve London Bridge.

1204. If it is of great importance to you, would it not be equally important to every other person engaged in business to have an additional communication?—Yes, but not so important to others as to ourselves, because the nature of our business is this, we are general collectors. There is scarcely a tradesman who does his own carrying business. With regard to the goods that we take out of London, everything is done by ourselves; we carry them from merchant's door to merchant's door; there is no middle party.

1205. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] If a bridge were constructed near the Tower, it would be in a direct line from your house of business?—Precisely so.

1206. Would it not very much relieve your traffic which you bring over London Bridge?—Yes, as a matter of course. But then that is very peculiar, from the circumstance of our station being in the Minories.

1207. Is not there a large amount of traffic in that direction?—Yes; it would be the first station in London for business to and from the Borough and Bermondsey.

1208. Is it not very convenient for the traffic from the docks?—Yes, we have all the docks close to us.

1209. *Chairman.*] Do you think that the Thames Tunnel could be made of use in diminishing that excessive traffic over London Bridge?—No; I think it is too far up the river for that purpose. In our connexion we do not take solitary loads; but if we have half a ton or a ton to collect at one place, and the same at another, we take them, and go over London Bridge with a full load.

1210. Mr. *Jackson.*] Leaving your firm out of the question, and looking at it without reference to any particular cases, do you think that a bridge across the Thames at the Tower would be a great public convenience?—I do not think it would be so much so as the getting Southwark Bridge opened. We have another means of doing all the business that this bridge contemplates, which would quite supersede it.

1211. Then you are not of opinion that the same relief would be afforded by a bridge below London Bridge as by one above?—Nothing like it. The increase of the traffic from the south to the north, taking the railway communications, is immense, independently of those who are in the neighbourhood.

1212. Mr. *Pellatt.*] With regard to the business interest, should you think St. Paul's a good position for a bridge?—No, I do not think it would be.

1213. A bridge below London Bridge would be better than one above London Bridge?—For one portion of the traffic only. But a plan struck me, which I endeavoured to carry into execution some years ago. I suggested to the Southwark Bridge Company to let us have one year's trial, by throwing the bridge open. We offered to subscribe money for the purpose, just to show them the quantity of vehicles that would really go over it, because all the Surrey conveyances and carriages go to Gracechurch-street; whereas many of them going to the Exchange would go over this bridge if it were toll-free.

1214. Do you do much business on the south side of the bridges?—Yes.

1215. Do you find much impediment from the nature of the roads on the south side of Southwark Bridge?—Yes; we cannot go with any degree of certainty, but we are obliged to use it because we cannot take Blackfriars, and we cannot take London Bridge. Sitting as I do in my office, and looking at the street, I am often grieved to see so noble a street open, left open for hours together, without more than three, four, or half-a-dozen vehicles passing. I myself prefer to pay 2*d.* toll when I go to the Borough; by that means I save three or four minutes. And I certainly think that, if we could get an approach from about the Mansion House to Queen-street, to the iron bridge, with two pretty good roads, one to the left and another to the right, you would find the access to the South-western Railway, and Surrey district, and Borough, very much improved. At present you find that the omnibus to a particular train, for example, to the 5.35 train, starts from Gracechurch-street, over the iron bridge, at five o'clock in the afternoon, to catch the train. It chooses Southwark Bridge, because it cannot go by either of the other two bridges with any degree of certainty as to time.

Price Prichard Baly, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

P. R. Baly, Esq.

21 June 1854.

1216. *Chairman.*] DO you wish to give the Committee any further evidence —I simply wish to give in some documents to illustrate the proposed alteration of Charing Cross Bridge into a carriage bridge.

1217. Will you hand them in?—(*The same were handed in.*)

Vide Appendix, No. 13; and Plans (VIII. to XI.) at the end.

Jovis, 22° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Oliveira.	Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Mr. Alderman Challis.
Lord Robert Grosvenor.	Lord Alfred Hervey.
Mr. Alderman Cubitt.	

BENJAMIN OLIVEIRA, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. *John Guy*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. J. Guy.

22 June 1854.

1218. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] WHERE do you live?—On the border of Bushey Park, at Hampton Wick.

1219. You are in the habit of making use of Hampton Court Bridge?—Yes, very much; but I make much more use of the other bridge in the neighbourhood, viz. Kingston Bridge; it is more in my way to London than the other; we cannot get away from Hampton Wick without crossing either Kingston Bridge or Hampton Court Bridge.

1220. Perhaps you can give the Committee some information with regard to both?—I know more of Kingston Bridge, but I can speak to both; Hampton Court Bridge was built under an Act of George the Second.

1221. With regard to Hampton Court Bridge, can you inform the Committee all the terms of the Act of Parliament under which it was built?—Yes; the Act was the 23d of George the Second, in 1749; I have here an extract from the clause as to the power of redemption of the Crown.

1222. Can you state to the Committee the privileges which were granted?—It was to one James Clarke, and his heirs and assigns, who was at that time the lessee of the manor of Moulsey, under the Crown.

1223. What did the Act of Parliament empower him to do?—To build the bridge, upon the condition that at the end of 26 years it should be redeemable by the Crown, or rather by his then Majesty, "his heirs and successors," on payment of the cost of the erection; I have in my hand an extract from the clause itself, which has been printed separately.

Vide Appendix, No. 11.

1224. *Chairman.*] Will you hand it in?—(*The same was delivered in.*)

1225. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Since that bridge was built, toll has been constantly taken upon it?—Constantly taken; and it is a very excessive toll; it is one of the largest upon the River Thames.

1226. Do foot passengers pay?—Yes, they pay each way.

1227. How much do they pay?—They only pay a halfpenny each way, but they pay double on Sunday; and a horse, or any animal, pays 2*d.* each way, and a vehicle of any kind, with one horse, pays 6*d.*

1228. In fact, they charge more at this bridge than you pay at Kingston?—Yes; nearly double or treble; and yet the revenue is less than half.

1229. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Should you not rather say that in consequence of this difference the revenue is less than half?—Although the toll is more than double or treble, yet the produce of the toll is less by at least one-half.

1230. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Do you consider that the amount of toll turns away traffic from that bridge?—Yes, I am sure it does. I have known instances of people walking three miles round to avoid that toll.

1231. You have stated that in the original Act of Parliament, power was given to the Crown to put an end to the toll, by purchasing the bridge, on payment of the cost of the bridge. Do you know what the cost of the bridge was?—I do

—I do not; but I know what it was sold for about 25 years ago. It was purchased by the present proprietor about 25 years ago from the assignees of Mr. Clark for 7,000 *l.*

1232. It is a wooden bridge, is it not?—It is a wooden bridge, and very steep in the centre.

1233. Can you inform the Committee whether the Crown has ever made any offer to purchase the bridge?—No, I believe they never have. But the only title that the holders of the bridge have to a toll at all is by the Act of Parliament; and therefore they must have taken the bridge with notice of the right of the Crown to purchase at the original cost.

1234. You mean to say that the present purchaser purchased, knowing that the Crown has the power of redemption?—He must have done so, because he certainly had no other title than that given by the Act of Parliament.

1235. Can you inform the Committee in what state of repair the bridge is?—The bridge is considered in the neighbourhood to be very unsound.

1236. Do you know at all, of your own knowledge, that the bridge is in an unsound state?—I cannot say so from my own knowledge, I merely speak from report. I should not be able to tell, if I examined it, whether it was in a good state of repair or not. I dare say the surveyor will know more about it than I do.

1237. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Does the power of purchase to which you have alluded, still exist in the Crown?—Unquestionably; because since the title to the toll exists under the Act of Parliament, the purchaser would necessarily have notice of that clause, and must therefore be liable to the redemption.

1238. The Act of Parliament says that the bridge shall be liable to redemption at any time after the expiration of 26 years?—The words of the Act are, "at any time hereafter." The maxim *nullum tempus occurrit regi* would unquestionably apply, even if the statute did not give express power to the Crown to redeem the bridge at any future time.

1239. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Does not the clause give to the Crown the power of redeeming the bridge upon paying all expenses, including the expenses of maintenance up to this time?—I believe that the purchaser would be very sorry to keep to the terms of the Act, for the produce has been much more than the interest and expenses.

1240. There is no provision in this clause that the produce should be deducted. It says that his Majesty shall have the power of redeeming the bridge upon paying "all such sum and sums of money as he and they shall have advanced, paid, and expended for and upon account of the procuring and passing of this Act, and for and upon account of erecting, maintaining, and supporting the said bridge, and preserving and improving the said navigation, and all such sum and sums of money as he and they shall have advanced, paid, and expended for and upon account of the purchase of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments as aforesaid, and also for and on account of doing and performing all such other matters and things as are hereinbefore authorised to be done and performed"?—Yes; that is the same sort of clause as is always inserted in mortgage deeds, where the mortgagees have power to redeem. But the receipts are always taken into consideration in such cases; and I apprehend that would be the legal construction of the clause.

1241. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Is there any clause in the Act directing that the bridge shall be free after the original cost has been repaid?—No, none whatever; and that is perhaps a singular part of it; because they are at present deriving a revenue certainly of from 1,000 *l.* to 1,500 *l.* a year from a bridge which cost 7,000 *l.*

1242. *Chairman.*] It only vests in the Crown by the Act of Parliament?—The bridge only vests in the Crown by the Act of Parliament; the words are, "His Majesty, his heirs and successors," which would, I suppose, at present vest the power in the Queen.

1243. You have stated that you believe that the proprietor is deriving at present a revenue of between 1,000 *l.* and 1,500 *l.* a year; can you state or procure for the Committee an exact account of the amount of tolls raised there?—It is leased by the present owner to the collectors for 700 *l.* a year; but since the lease was granted the tolls have very largely increased, in consequence of the railway. There has been a railway brought almost to the foot of the bridge, which carries most of the traffic in that direction to Hampton Court. The traffic

Mr. *J. Guy.*

22 June 1854.

that used to come by way of Teddington and Richmond, and Putney and Fulham and Kingston, now generally goes by the railway to East Moulsey, and then crosses the bridge; consequently the toll has very largely increased within the last three or four years. Some attempts have been made to estimate the amount of their receipts, and it is supposed that they collect about 1,500*l.* a year there at present.

1244. Do you think that the inhabitants on both sides of the bridge desire to have it thrown open?—Unquestionably; it would be the greatest boon that they could receive.

1245. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] You said that there was some one who could speak to the condition of the bridge; who is it?—There is a gentleman here, who is a surveyor in the neighbourhood, who perhaps could speak with reference to its condition. I can speak to it to this extent; the ascent on both sides is very steep; it is a very old bridge, and it is on account of the steep ascent and descent, and the vibration, exceedingly dangerous; of this I have often seen instances with regard to the traffic to and from Hampton Court.

1246. Your answer has reference rather to the value of the bridge to the present proprietors than of its value to the public?—Yes; but its condition could only be ascertained by knowing the state of the foundations, we have no means of forming an opinion about that; but with regard to the danger to the traffic, I can speak positively. On such a day as to-day, which is the grand day of the Moulsey races, there would be, perhaps, 200*l.* or 300*l.* collected there in pence, and you would see carriages and horses, and all species of vehicles stopped at this gate upon this steep ascent; I have myself repeatedly seen accidents happen there to people coming from the races.

1247. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] You are quite as well, if not better, acquainted with Kingston Bridge than with Hampton Court Bridge?—Yes, I am.

1248. Will you inform the Committee whether that bridge is much used?—It is the main thoroughfare after Richmond for, I should say, the whole of the line connecting Middlesex and Surrey in that district, because there is a great sweep of the river at that point; and when I state that the toll collected at Kingston Bridge is about 2,500*l.*, whereas that collected at Hampton Court is only 1,200*l.* or 1,500*l.*, it will be evident that the main traffic across the river is over Kingston Bridge.

1249. It is the main means of communication between Middlesex and Surrey for a large district?—For a district extending over 11 or 12 miles.

1250. Do not people residing further up the river cross Kingston Bridge to go to London?—It is the nearest way from any part of Hampton, Shepperton or Walton, or the other places in that direction to London. The inhabitants of these places come over Kingston Bridge as the nearest way to London.

1251. Is it a good bridge, and in a good state of repair?—It is a very good bridge, and in excellent repair.

1252. Is it a stone bridge?—Yes, it is a stone bridge. It was built by Mr. Lapidge, the surveyor of Surrey, about 25 years ago.

1253. Was it not built at the joint expense of the two counties of Middlesex and Surrey?—It was built under an Act of Parliament, and the money was raised by a loan, I believe, from the Exchequer.

1254. Is the loan to be repaid out of the tolls?—It is repaid by gradual repayments.

1255. When was that Act of Parliament obtained?—I think it was in the year 1825.

1256. Did not a bridge exist there before that time?—Yes, a free bridge existed previously, and had existed for centuries; but the approaches to it were inconvenient, and numerous accidents took place at the turnings of the whole street, and that bridge was a wooden one, and somewhat out of repair; I always fancied that it was not necessary that there should have been a new bridge. Indeed, I know that a person offered to maintain Kingston Bridge for 50 years at the cost of 100*l.* a year. But the Act was obtained, and a toll placed on it. As far as I can discover, there never had been a toll upon the old bridge.

1257. You have stated that the present bridge was built in 1825?—The Act was obtained in 1825; it was built in two years succeeding.

1258. The bridge built in 1828 is in good repair, which the former bridge was not, but it has a toll which the other had not. Do you know whether in the provisions of the Act of Parliament, under which the bridge was built, there is any

any provision for the cessation of the toll, when the amount expended in the erection of the bridge has been paid off?—There is a provision in the Act, that any surplus toll should be applied in the redemption of the cost of the bridge.

1259. You stated, that you believe that it was built by a sum of money borrowed from the Exchequer Loan Commissioners. Are you aware of the nature of the transaction with the Exchequer Loan Commissioners?—The money was lent at 3 per cent. to the Corporation of Kingston, and they were to pay the interest and a portion of the principal every year.

1260. Can you tell the Committee what debt remains still upon the bridge?—Yes; there is a debt of 31,000 *l.* remaining out of 45,000 *l.*

1261. Is the Committee to understand, that in the course of the 26 years which have elapsed since the bridge was built, the sum of 15,000 *l.* has been paid off?—About 14,000 *l.* has been paid off.

1262. Was the amount which you have stated, the whole amount of the cost of the bridge and its approaches?—£.45,000 was the entire cost, except that I believe a portion of some property which I believe the bridge possesses was sold, but to a trifling amount.

1263. Is the sum which you have stated the whole amount of debt now remaining for the bridge?—The whole amount of debt remaining is thirty-one thousand and some odd pounds.

1264. How much is paid off now every year?—I should say nearly 1,000 *l.* capital is paid off every year; it varies a good deal; when there is less interest to pay, of course more of the principal is paid; it is a sort of sliding scale; but on an average, at present we are paying off certainly 700 *l.* or 800 *l.* of capital yearly.

1265. The interest annually diminishing, of course every year there will be a larger amount of principal paid, providing the toll remains the same?—It is calculated that it will take 25 years more to liquidate the debt; there are some gentlemen here to-day, and among them the mayor of Kingston, who can tell you more about that than I can.

1266. Can you state whether there have been any meetings held in the neighbourhood for the purpose of discussing the question of throwing open the bridge to the public free of toll?—There have been public meetings held at Kingston, Hampton, Hampton Court, Walton, Richmond, Weybridge, Staines, Putney and Fulham, and throughout the surrounding neighbourhood; I do not think there is a place at which there has not been some public meeting.

1267. What resolutions have generally been passed at those meetings?—The resolutions have been, that the tolls are very vexatious in their collection, and in their obstruction of the public, and very detrimental to trade, and to free communication; and instances have been adduced without number of the mode in which people put themselves to considerable inconvenience to avoid the tolls; inconvenience probably of 10 or 50 times the amount of the actual toll, as many persons will consider it.

1268. What means have they suggested as best adapted for the purpose of purchasing the tolls of the bridge?—The meetings have generally shrunk from fixing any particular mode, because they felt that they might be fettering themselves, or seeking a mode of redemption that would be objectionable; but I think I might say that every meeting which I have attended, and I have attended three, has come to the conclusion either that a rate on the counties of Middlesex and Surrey should be the source from which the funds ought to be supplied, or that if the London bridges were to be dealt with by any other course, the same course ought to be applied to the country bridges.

1269. At those meetings, was the propriety of continuing the coal duty taken into consideration?—It was very much discussed.

1270. What was the opinion generally prevailing?—There seems to be a great difference of opinion as to the time which it would take to redeem if the coal duty were continued; but the opinion was universal that if, by means of the coal duty, all the bridges could be freed from toll in a certain time, so that the public would feel that, after that limited time, they would be freed from this duty, the tax would be a very proper one to apply to the purpose.

1271. Do you know whether the people so discussing were aware that, by the present Act of Parliament, the coal tax will cease in 1860?—I do not think that they were generally aware of that.

1272. What was your impression with reference to the general opinion, was it

Mr. *J. Guy.*

22 June 1854.

for a direct or an indirect tax?—The general opinion, after discussion, was in favour of the coal duty being applied to the purpose.

1273. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you think that the inhabitants of all the districts round Hampton, Richmond, and Kingston bridges would be glad to have a small rate laid upon them for the purpose of paying off the debts on the bridge, and keeping them free, if the whole of the metropolis were taxed equally with them?—Yes. It has been calculated that a penny rate on Middlesex and Surrey would produce about 80,000 *l.*; the matter was discussed at the different meetings at which I was present, and they came to the conclusion that 80,000 *l.* would relieve almost every bridge connecting Middlesex and Surrey, excepting the London Bridges.

1274. *Chairman.*] In your calculation, do you include Vauxhall Bridge?—No; I treat Vauxhall Bridge as a London bridge. But taking Fulham and Richmond, and Kew and Kingston, and Hampton Court, Walton, and Staines, it will be found that a rate of a penny, or a penny farthing at all events, on the counties of Middlesex and Surrey, for one year, would relieve the inhabitants of those bridges for ever.

1275. Mr. *Jackson.*] Would you think it just and reasonable that the tax for this purpose should be levied upon the whole of the two counties in preference to being levied upon the part which now suffers?—Inasmuch as a tax on Middlesex and Surrey would take in London and Southwark, I do not think that it would be fair to make the rate applicable to the country bridges alone; because I think that the inhabitants of London and Southwark would have a right to say, at all events, we will apply that principle to ourselves as well.

1276. If the inhabitants of that part of Middlesex and Surrey which is called the metropolis, were to agree to the rate, you, representing the opinion of parties in your district, would have no objection to come under the rating power, provided you could have the bridges in your neighbourhood set free, as well as the metropolitan bridges?—We should have no objection, even if it were necessary, for that purpose, to pay the rate for three or four years in succession.

1277. Is the Committee to understand that, instead of raising a tax generally, they levied a tax in the immediate vicinity, in order to pay the borrowed money which was taken up for the purpose of constructing a bridge?—That is so.

1278. And still it is called a county bridge?—It is so, without question.

1279. But it was not paid for by a county rate?—No, it is not.

1280. Does not your experience tell you that that is an unusual mode of procedure for a county, if they wish to make a bridge, to go and raise money upon loan, and place a toll upon it instead of making the bridge free, through the produce of a county rate?—I can only speak as to what is usual on the Thames. Walton Bridge was built by a private speculation; and Hampton Court Bridge was built very much after the same style, being built under a grant from the Crown, with a power to redeem. Kingston Bridge was the first instance that I am acquainted with in which the money was borrowed in that way. Richmond was built by a tontine.

1281. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Then, as far as your knowledge goes, no bridges across the Thames have been built by a county rate?—I do not know any instance except that of Kingston, in which the bridge was built by a sum raised from the county.

1282. Mr. *Jackson.*] Richmond Bridge was a speculation, and Walton Bridge was a speculation, but, as I understand it, the Corporation have built the bridge in this instance by borrowing money upon the security of the tolls, not by rate?—The Corporation of Kingston were the parties concerned. It was built under Act of Parliament. It can hardly be said that the Corporation built it, but they were unquestionably the persons who moved the Act of Parliament and obtained it.

1283. Will you put in a copy of that Act of Parliament?—I have not the Act of Parliament here, but I can put in one. I should like to mention to the Committee that between Kingston and Hampton Court there is 4,000 *l.* a year collected by the two bridges, within a mile, for crossing the Thames; the bridges are within a mile and a quarter of each other at the utmost, and there is a toll of about 2,500 *l.* collected at Kingston, and about 1,500 *l.* at Hampton Court, so that it amounts to a tax of 4,000 *l.* a year upon that particular locality.

1284. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You have a good deal of acquaintance with the bridges; do you think the mode of paying for them by collecting a toll is desirable or objectionable?—

objectionable?—I think it the most objectionable mode that could by possibility be devised; it cuts a town asunder as it were; for instance, with regard to Kingston and Hampton Wick, there is no division but the river; one is a small town, and the other is a large corporate town, upon which the other must be dependent; but by means of this toll the inhabitants are effectually severed. If a person in Kingston wants to take a walk, instead of taking his family into Bushey Park, he goes in any other direction; and if a poor man wants to get his loaf of bread, he is confined to the particular side of the water where he is; there are numerous instances in the village of Hampton Wick in which poor men live there, and work in Kingston, and they actually devise schemes to avoid the toll; a man will come up to the toll-gate for his dinner, and a boy will come from his house and bring the dinner, and pass it through the bars; all these, and many other similar devices are adopted. I cannot conceive anything more injurious to a locality than a toll placed in such a position, particularly on foot passengers; for although tolls are deemed objectionable upon turnpikes at the foot of any town, they do not take tolls upon foot passengers at a turnpike.

1285. *Chairman.*] Were you rightly understood to say, that the Corporation of Kingston are the trustees of the bridge?—They have the management of the bridge in some shape; they are either trustees or commissioners, and they have a fund sufficient to maintain the bridge of Kingston in repair for ever.

1286. Kingston is greatly increasing; a good deal of building is going on in the neighbourhood?—It has very largely increased of late, and so has Moulsey, from the fact that the station at Hampton Court has come down to the foot of Hampton Court Bridge.

1287. So that there is every probability that the traffic across these two bridges will increase?—Yes, the traffic at Hampton Court, I should think, has more than doubled within the last few years, and will continue to increase.

1288. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] You have said that you think that the people would willingly submit to a county rate; do you contemplate county rate in the immediate locality?—If the rate were applied to the relief of any one bridge, of course the immediate locality would submit to it; but if it were a general rate it should be either a county rate, or a rate upon a certain circumference.

1289. I think you have stated your opinion to be that the continuation of the coal tax would be less objectionable than a rate specially imposed for the purpose?—Yes, for although the coal tax is very objectionable, yet inasmuch as it is an existing tax, and inasmuch as the public would feel that it would be discontinued as soon as the debt was paid off, and inasmuch as they would feel that it was applied to a very beneficial purpose in the meantime, they would prefer the continuance of that tax to the creation of a new tax, particularly as I believe that tax was applied also, to a certain extent, to the erection of London Bridge.

1290. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] At all events, you are distinctly of opinion, that supposing a tax were laid upon the area of 20 miles around London, which is the area within which the coal tax is now collected for the purpose of paying off the debt, or setting free the bridges between London Bridge and the highest bridge in your district, that would be satisfactory to every one?—I have no doubt of it; I think 25 miles would just reach Windsor.

1291. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] The area of 20 miles extends into Hertfordshire?—Yes, there is no doubt that that plan would give Middlesex and Surrey rather an advantage as compared with a rate levied upon the counties.

1292. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Are all the inhabitants of those parts more or less interested in the bridges?—Yes.

1293. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Have you taken into consideration the area of the coal tax, with a view to ascertain whether it is right or not, that all the people living at a distance of 20 miles from London should pay the tax, or whether it would be better to have a larger or a smaller area?—I approve of the area of the coal tax; whether it was based upon that principle or not I do not know, but certainly 25 miles round London is much about the circumference within which the inhabitants would be benefited by a relief from toll. You could not fix perhaps upon a fairer distance; because persons within 25 miles are probably in immediate communication with the metropolis, and must be benefited by a relief from toll.

1294. How would a farmer living in Hemel Hempstead, in the county of Hertfordshire, be benefited by the tolls being taken off the bridge?—A farmer

Mr. *J. Guy.*

22 June 1854.

living at Hemel Hempstead would perhaps escape toll in almost every direction, but his commodities coming from the borough of Southwark or the neighbourhood beyond Vauxhall, or crossing the river in any direction, must pay a toll; and it is notorious that in charging for such commodities the tradesmen do not keep within this amount of toll, but add about double or treble the amount, whenever they cross the river. And increased price is put on the article delivered to the extent of twice or three times the amount.

1295. How are they able to put it on?—There are tradesmen here, who, if any goods are ordered from them, will go a mile or more further without making an additional charge if they have not to cross the bridge; but if they have to pay the toll, they put on an additional charge directly, although they go even a less distance than they deliver the goods to, without an extra charge, on the same side of the river.

1296. Mr. *Jackson.*] Every charge put on the transit of goods is a tax upon the consumer, is it not?—It is a charge put upon the consumer of goods to that extent.

1297. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] If a farmer at Hemel Hempstead derives a benefit from the abolition of tolls in a reduction of the price of the articles he consumes, ought he not to pay the tax?—Yes, if he derives manure or any other commodities from London. He can hardly be free from some amount of taxation on account of the London bridges, if he is in business to any extent.

1298. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] But would not you be ready to admit that the benefit to the persons resident in the immediate vicinity of the bridges would be much greater than the benefit which would accrue to a man living 25 miles from London?—Yes, but that is very variable; of course persons living within five miles of a bridge would be more benefited than those living within 10, and those living within 10 would be more benefited than those within 15, and so on; but it would be so variable that one could hardly fix a ratio of taxation that would be fair unless you were to take a certain circumference as the area of taxation; any other plan would be subject to a much greater objection than the mere fact, that one person residing within the circumference does not derive an equal benefit with another.

1299. You will admit that is very much a question of degree?—Undoubtedly.

1300. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] With regard to the coal tax, is it not paid to a very much greater extent by the people residing near the bridges than it is by those residing further off in the less populated districts?—No, I think not very much. People, whether near the bridges or otherwise, consume coals in the same proportion; for instance, a gentleman living at the rate of 1,000 *l.* year, whether he is living at Southwark or at Hampton Court, or 10 miles from the river, consumes about the same quantity of coal.

1301. Is there not a denser population near the bridges than elsewhere. About Kingston Bridge, for instance, is there not a denser population than near Hemel Hempstead?—Yes.

1302. Would not it therefore naturally follow that the tax would be levied to a much greater extent near the river than elsewhere, and that consequently the money raised for the liquidation of the debt on the bridges would be collected to a much larger amount in the neighbourhood of the bridge than at a distance from it?—Yes, it would be so on account of the large population, of course. If you have a very large population a more considerable tax would be paid; but I submit, with regard to the country bridges over the Thames, that in London a man has never to walk much more than half a mile, more or less, whether he goes over a toll or a free bridge. For instance, a person coming in any direction half a mile distant would have the chance of avoiding the toll in that way. But in the country he must go five or six miles in order to avoid a toll-bridge in any direction. If he wanted to avoid a toll-bridge he could not go less than five or six miles to get a free transit, whereas in London he would get it within half a mile almost at any spot, so that I fancy the demand for free transit in the metropolis and in the country are the same. In London, although the quantity of persons flocking to London would of course be a much greater number, yet still the inhabitants have the option of free transit over the river, which they have not in the country. In many places in the country a man must go seven or eight, or 10 miles, round to get a free transit over the river. Indeed I do not know that they can get a free transit within a distance of 15 miles, for there is only one free bridge, that at Chertsey, in that part of the river.

Frederick Gould, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1303. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE that you are the Mayor of Kingston?—I am.

1304. Mr. *Jackson.*] Can you give the Committee an official account of the receipts and expenditure, and of the amount of the reduction of the debt of that bridge?—The Corporation are the Commissioners of the bridge, and therefore I can give you that information. The original cost was 40,000 *l.* for the bridge, and 8,000 *l.* for the approaches, and the necessary amount was borrowed of the Exchequer Loan Commissioners at 3½ per cent.

1305. How much per cent. in addition has been applied to the sinking fund?—The interest is paid off by the receipts of the bridge, and there is a surplus which goes annually to the liquidation of the principal; about 800 *l.* a year is thus paid off. We pay 1,200 *l.* a year for interest, and about 800 *l.* for reduction of the principal, so that during the 26 years that the bridge has been built we have paid off about 13,000 *l.* I would state that we rate the rent of the bridge at 2,000 *l.* or 2,200 *l.* At the present moment it is 2,000 *l.*

1306. *Chairman.*] Are the tolls let on lease?—No, they are annually put up for contract, and the letting is advertised; they are let by tender.

1307. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] What is the present amount of interest payable?—The present amount of interest payable is about 1,200 *l.*

1308. What is the amount of interest at the present moment?—I am not prepared to state the exact details, having been detained in endeavouring to get from the town-clerk's office a particular statement which was promised me, and which I hope to be able to furnish to the Committee. I will get a full statement of our accounts prepared, and put it in.

1309. The Committee would like to ascertain your opinion as to whether the toll which exists upon the bridge operates injuriously to the interests of the neighbourhood, as far as your side of the river is concerned?—It is, I think, one of the most grievous sources of complaint which we have in the neighbourhood. It operates very injuriously upon the neighbourhood, especially pressing upon the poor, from the peculiar circumstance that a considerable number of the poor get their lodgings or small cottages in Hampton Wick and come to work at Kingston. It amounts to a tax, paying, as they do, a halfpenny each time, of 2 *s.* or 3 *s.* a week, unless they subject themselves to the inconvenience of going to the public-houses in the place, or taking food with them when they go to work in the morning. One may see at meal times the wives and children of the labourers bringing up their meals to the bridge, and endeavouring to get them passed through the gate.

1310. What is the best mode, according to the opinion of the people in the neighbourhood, of raising the money necessary for throwing open that bridge?—That question has been discussed in several ways, but I gather from the especial inquiry which I have made lately, that either a coal tax in a modified form, or a rate levied over either the area of the coal tax or a modified area, would be the most acceptable mode of paying off the debts upon the bridges. I think that the coal tax, far from pressing heavily upon the inhabitants, is not, by a large number, known to exist at all.

1311. So that indirect taxation you think more desirable than direct, as regards the bridges?—I think decidedly so in that case; for, I think, it would be found that that mode of raising the money (by means of the coal tax) would throw the burthen of paying off the debt on the bridge upon those by whom it could best be borne, on account of the smaller consumption of coals by the poor. Many families do not use on an average more than a ton, perhaps not half a ton of coals in a year, and the tax upon that would be a smaller sum than that which the same persons pay now in toll. They often pay as much as 30 *s.*, 40 *s.*, or 50 *s.* in a year.

1312. Mr. *Jackson.*] Did not you say just now that people of every class who lived in the vicinity of a bridge, would be materially benefited if the tolls were taken off?—I think so.

1313. Do not you think that it would be just, reasonable, and fair, that the owners and the occupiers of property of every description should pay a fair proportion of the tax raised necessary to set it free?—Certainly.

1314. Do you think that the coal tax, as at present levied, reaches every one

F. Gould, Esq.

22 June 1854.

of those parties?—It reaches every person who happens to be resident within the area.

1315. Supposing that the owner of a house in Kingston resided 150 miles off, would not his property be benefited by the reduction of the toll upon this bridge, while at the same he would not be affected by the tax?—Yes, but I believe that those would be very exceptional cases.

1316. Looking at the question in that light, do not you think that a local rate of a halfpenny in the pound which would reach all the parties benefited, would be the most just mode of taxation?—A rate of that kind would not reach all parties, inasmuch as the poorer outlying cottages, of which the rent is under a certain amount, do not pay tax; and moreover, I think that it would be a most difficult tax to levy, upon the poor especially. We find at present a grea difficulty in levying the local rates under the local Act with regard to the composition for cottages, of which the rent is under a certain amount, inasmuch as it frequently happens that poor persons receiving parochial relief are taxed, and they are excused.

1317. Do not you think that the principle of such a tax would be more fair than that of the coal tax?—I confess that, from all I have seen and thought of the matter, it seems to me that the coal tax would be the least objectionable.

1318. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] The coal tax does, in fact, reach every person who is in any way benefited by the bridge?—With a few exceptional cases of persons owning property and living far away. I have made it a point for the last week or two, during the time that this matter has been in discussion, to speak upon the question to various individuals, and to endeavour to ascertain their feeling upon the matter; and I think the general remark made by men of business, well-informed persons, and persons officially concerned, has been, "We do not pay the coal tax here, do we"? They were not actually aware that it was paid at all. I think, indeed, that it is doubtful whether, if the coal tax were taken off, the price of coals at Kingston would be affected by the change. I question whether, if it were taken off to-morrow, and I sent and ordered two or three tons of coals, I should get them for one farthing less than I do at present, the amount of the tax is so small a per-centage upon the price of coals there. We are paying from 25 *s.* to 40 *s.* a ton, and a tax of 1 *s.* 1 *d.* upon that is hardly appreciable.

1319. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you consider that the inhabitants of Kingston are in the same condition as the inhabitants of Windsor, who are paying a tax, and the other not?—I do not think that the difference would be worth consideration, inasmuch as a person consuming five or six tons pays only 5 *s.* or 6 *s.* per year tax upon that; and a person who uses that quantity of coal in a year must be very well off.

1320. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is it your opinion that if it were proposed to levy a tax, either the coal tax or any other, upon a district of 20 miles round London, for the purpose of buying up the existing toll-paying bridges, and perhaps erecting new bridges throughout the whole district, including the metropolitan, the inhabitants of your district would wish to be included in that tax?—If you may apply the term popular to a rate or tax, I do not think that a more popular rate, or one more readily acceptable to the public could be proposed, than a rate for the entire freedom of all bridges within an area of 25 miles. It would be especially acceptable to us in the country, for I agree with the remark with regard to the people of London, made by the last witness. I think it is the fact, that the people generally do not pay a toll in passing over from one side of the river to the other, as they can have their choice of a free bridge; but I do not at this moment recollect a free bridge across the Thames for 20 miles from Chertsey to London; we may sometimes avoid crossing the bridges when we have still to keep on the Surrey side, by going round through Ditton and Moulsey, and so avoiding the bend of the river; but we cannot cross from county to county without paying toll.

1321. *Chairman.*] Have you any knowledge of the proportion of foot-passengers to the other traffic over Kingston Bridge?—It is estimated that about two-thirds of the whole amount of the toll collected at the bridge is levied upon the foot-passengers; if we reckon the whole amount at 2,400 *l.* a year, the rent being 2,000 *l.*, and of course a benefit is derived by the lessee, which we may reckon at 400 *l.* or 500 *l.* a year, thus taking the toll at 2,400 *l.* a year, it would follow that upwards of 800,000 persons are stopped, and toll is demanded from them every year.

1322. Mr.

1322. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Is not there another element in the bridge to be added to the burthen of 2,000 *l.* a year which you receive. Is not the collector also continually paying money out of his pocket to his own sub-collectors?—Certainly.

1323. Do not the public, therefore, pay a vastly greater sum for the accommodation than would be necessary if the bridge were free?—They do; it is a tax levied upon the neighbourhood of nearly 3,000 *l.* a year, whilst the coal tax over an area of 25 miles would bring upon us a much smaller amount than that; and yet we should pay a large proportion, because, being densely populated, our neighbourhood would bear its proportion. Now a tax which is to be decided upon or ascertained by a vicinity, may appear to bear oppressively upon persons who happen to reside very far off, and yet there are persons living 10 or 12 miles distant from Kingston Bridge, have occasion to use it far more than I or many of the inhabitants of Kingston. I believe that I am within bounds when I say that the traffic upon that bridge would be increased fourfold if the toll were taken off, in consequence, partly, of the vicinity of Bushey Park, Hampton Court, and the neighbourhood immediately adjoining. It is an important thing for the people of the town now that the fields all around are being covered with houses, to have an easy access to a place which is thrown open to the public. Bushey Park and Hampton Court Palace are within a few minutes' walk of the market-place, but a heavy tax is imposed upon the people going thither; for example, a man and wife, with three or four children, must pay a tax of 6 *d.* in going there and returning.

1324. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] In letting the tolls do you stipulate as to what toll is to be levied?—We do.

1325. What is the amount of the toll?—For every foot-passenger it is one halfpenny; ditto, with a wheelbarrow, &c., 1 *d.*; for every horse, 1½ *d.*; ditto, carrying double and not drawing, 2 *d.*; for a coach, chaise, &c., drawn by one horse, 3 *d.*; ditto, drawn by more than one horse, 3 *d.* each; for additional horse drawing two-wheel carriages, 1½ *d.*; for carts and waggons, &c., drawn by one horse, 4½ *d.*; for every additional horse, 1½ *d.*; for every bull, ox, &c., 1½ *d.*; and for sheep or lambs, 5 *d.* per score.

1326. Have any alterations been lately made in the tolls?—Not that I am aware of.

1327. Mr. *Jackson.*] Are you compelled by the Commissioners from whom you borrowed the money for the construction of the bridge, to keep the tolls at their present amount?—I am not aware that we are.

1328. Have you ever considered the propriety of reducing them?—The question has been discussed, but it has been considered better to keep the tolls as they are, and so to get the bridge free, or to make some effort by the increase of taxation to pay off the debt.

1329. Have you ever tried the experiment of reducing the tolls in the hope that such a step might increase the receipts?—That may have been done formerly, but I am not aware of it.

1330. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] As two-thirds of the whole amount is paid by foot-passengers, who only pay one halfpenny, would there not be some difficulty in reducing the toll?—Decidedly. It has been suggested to take off the toll upon foot-passengers, but it was found that the income of the bridge was mainly derived from them, so that such a step would be fatal to our engagement with the Exchequer Loan Commissioners. I would add, that there is a property belonging to the bridge which brings in about 160 *l.* a year, and that the expenses of repairing, watering, and lighting the bridge, are rather less than 150 *l.*, so that there is in the hands of the Corporation a property that would pay the incidental expenses of the bridge if the toll were taken off.

1331. *Chairman.*] Have you any knowledge of Hampton Court Bridge?—I have.

1332. Do you know whether any proposal has ever been made to purchase Hampton Court Bridge, and if not what steps might be taken for that purpose?—I believe that there is a condition in the grant originally made to the builder of that bridge by which it may be purchased at any time by Government at its original cost.

1333. Would not 7,000 *l.* be the price which the Government would have to pay for the purchase of that bridge?—I believe that would be about the price.

F. Gould, Esq.

22 June 1854.

price. It would be the original cost, which at all events would be considerably less than the erection of a new bridge would now cost.

1334. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What reason have you for making that statement?—The bridge is entirely built of timber, and I have no doubt that labour and materials were then much less expensive than they are now.

1335. How long has the bridge been erected?—130 years.

1336. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Does not the clause in the Act of Parliament, which gives power to the Crown to purchase the bridge, direct that the price shall be what it has then cost?—I believe it does.

1337. *Chairman.*] Are not the foundations of the bridge extremely ancient?—I should think so.

1338. Formerly there was a free bridge on its site?—I suppose so. Kingston Bridge was a free bridge from time immemorial, until the present bridge was built. There is a peculiarity in the case, to which it would be right to call the attention of the Committee, a fact which is mentioned in our memorial, namely, "That the debt now chargeable upon the bridge is strictly due to the Crown, as the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods and Forests and Land Revenue are the sureties to the Exchequer-Bill Commissioners for the repayment of the said loan by the said bridge commissioners, and consequently should the Legislature think proper to free the bridge from such debt, there would not be any money to be advanced for the discharge of the said debt."

1339. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What is the amount of debt at present?—£35,000. If we consider the bridges altogether, it seems that the whole of the rural bridges could be set free for something less than the cost of one of the metropolitan bridges; and this step would be productive of a far greater amount of accommodation to the public than the setting free of any of the metropolitan bridges.

1340. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Have you made any estimate as to the time that would be required to free the bridges by means of a county rate?—I have been asking the Government officer for information as to the amount of such a rate, in order to be able to prepare a statement as to what it would produce upon an area of 25 miles; but my impression is, that it would take a small rate 25 miles round London.

1341. The last witness has assumed it to be 80,000 *l.*; have you any means of knowing whether that is correct?—That is our impression for the rural bridges. I have been endeavouring to get, and I dare say that I shall be able to procure a statement of the costs of the different bridges, as far as they may be known or ascertained; and of the amount that would be necessary to free them, but I think that about 80,000 *l.* will be the sum; and that is what a penny rate would raise, but I should have known it positively if I could have obtained the assessments of the counties. Our impression is, that a penny rate upon the two counties of Middlesex and Surrey would nearly, if not quite, free all the county bridges in one year.

1342. Will you endeavour to get what information you can upon this subject before next week?—I will. I hoped to have obtained it before to-day. I may state that, at the meetings I have attended (and I have already taken part in two or three), this of course has been a very important feature in the discussion. In these cases the broad matter was discussed, and the view which the meetings generally took (and I think I may say that the meetings were unanimous upon that point) was, that without committing themselves to either the coal tax or an improvement rate, or a rate over an area, they would gladly have the bridges free by whatever course might to the Committee and the House appear to be most suitable. We felt it desirable not to commit ourselves; but I am sure that we should consider it a very great boon to have the bridges free by either course of taxation.

1343. You include the metropolitan bridges in your opinion?—Certainly.

George William Andrews, Esq. called in; and Examined.

G. W. Andrews, Esq.

1344. TO which of the bridges does your knowledge extend?—To Moulsey bridge.

1345. Will you be so good as to inform the Committee whether, to the best of your knowledge, the people in the neighbourhood of that bridge would wish to have it thrown open to the public?—I should think most assuredly that they would;

would; and for this reason, that the toll is very heavy there, much heavier than the general rate of the tolls on the bridges over the Thames; heavier, I believe, than any, with the exception of Walton; there is no other bridge in the neighbourhood which has so heavy a toll.

1346. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What opportunities have you of knowing the feeling of the people in the neighbourhood with regard to this matter?—I have a large mill on the opposite side of the bridge to Moulsey, so that the toll just catches me; and it is really a weighty affair to me; I only just pass over the bridge, and of course I have to pay the toll.

1347. What opportunities have you of knowing and estimating the feeling of the inhabitants as regards the toll?—I know it by constantly passing and repassing.

1348. The throwing the bridge open would relieve you from paying the toll, is not that the ground of your opinion?—Not merely so; but I hear persons complain constantly of the toll, and the general feeling is, that if the toll could be got rid of by means of some other mode of taxation, even supposing that it amounted to the same thing as regards the sum levied, they would rather be subject to that tax than be constantly annoyed by the squabbles which they at present have with the person in possession of the bridge.

1349. From what do those squabbles arise?—From the fact that the individual who is in possession of the tolls has of late made private arrangements with certain parties to reduce the toll; the toll by Act of Parliament is 1*s.* each way for every waggon, and she makes arrangements with some people, by which they only pay one way, in consequence of their frequent use of the bridge; but then, if they have a small article at the bottom of their waggon or cart, she says that that amounts to loading both ways, and then the toll is put on both ways.

1350. Do not difficulties arise from the concession which the owner has made, because by Act of Parliament she having the right to take 1*s.*, she limits the amount by taking less, and the public wish to deceive her, and to take a licence, which she does not consider to be included in the arrangement which she makes?—Not exactly so; of course most reasonable persons would be most happy to pay a reasonable toll, but for instance, supposing that there were in my cart a sack of any particular article which might be directed to come back again, as the waggon returns, and I saw that it would be charged double toll, whereas the waggon at other times only paid single toll, I should consider it a great hardship; the toll collector has also a right to charge 6*d.* a horse after the two first horses. If a waggon goes over the bridge with two horses they charge 1*s.*; and they charge 6*d.* additional upon every other; and sometimes they will call the waggon a big waggon, and make further charges on that ground.

1351. If the toll collector charged uniformly as much as the Act of Parliament requires, there would be no difficulties?—No, but you must take into consideration the fact that the toll is excessive.

1352. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you think that the public generally are desirous of getting rid of the present toll?—Most assuredly.

1353. Do you think that there would be any objection, on the part of the people who live near the bridge, to have a small tax laid on them, provided the bridge were made toll-free?—I believe that all the individuals who make use of the bridge and pay the toll, would be most happy to enter into any arrangement by which they could be rid of the nuisance of having to pay the toll.

1354. Do you consider that if the toll were removed the whole district would be benefited?—There can be no doubt about it; because it would facilitate the communication which is at present cut off by the existence of the bridge.

1355. Do you think that the benefit which would be derived by the inhabitants generally from throwing open the bridge, would be equal to a charge of 1*d.* in the pound upon their rents?—That must depend upon how long the charge existed; as regards ourselves, we should be happy to pay 2*d.* in the pound, but the rest of the district would not be so much benefited.

1356. Would the advantages to the whole neighbourhood from this step be so great, that a tax of 2*d.* in the pound for accomplishing it would not be generally thought too great?—I can only speak from my own personal feelings. It would be so with regard to me, and I think that it would be so with regard to others. I am a large purchaser of wheat in the neighbourhood, and I know that frequently farmers will not face the toll over this bridge; they say that they

G. W. Andrews, Esq.

22 June 1854.

will take their wheat to Uxbridge or elsewhere, rather than go over the bridge; that is a great prejudice to every one, but more particularly to me.

1357. Other parties are similarly placed with you in that respect, in a measure proportioned to the amount of the business they do?—Yes; for farmers it is a very heavy tax upon them; Moulsey is but a small village close upon the bridge, and they make use of a small portion of the road.

1358. Is not the high toll a disadvantage to them both as producers and consumers?—There can be no doubt about it.

1359. Do you think that the removal of this restriction upon the bridge would be a great advantage to the district?—I think it would be a far greater advantage than the disadvantage which they are now under in paying the toll; because it would give greater facility of communication.

1360. They would cheerfully pay a small rate in order to get the bridge thrown open?—I should think so.

1361. The general feeling would be in favour of a rate?—I should think so; but, as I have said, I can only speak from my individual experience.

1362. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You said just now, that the parties who now pay the toll would be glad to pay a tax in order to get rid of it; we now hear from you, that not only the people that use the bridge, but that all who are consumers of wheat in the neighbourhood, would derive benefit from it?—I should imagine that people who live in the neighbourhood must of necessity use the bridge, because they cannot get from one side of the river to the other without doing so, and they are cut off entirely from the Middlesex side of the river; they must use either Walton Bridge or Moulsey Bridge, and the tolls on both are excessive.

1363. Is it possible that a person who never went over the bridge in his life would be benefited by the removal of the toll?—I think it is likely, but it would be difficult to persuade him of it. I perfectly concur in the idea that there would be obdurate people who fancy that they have no interest whatever in the removal of the tolls, but they would be ultimately benefited by their removal.

1364. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] If you call a public meeting upon the subject, would not it be likely that the opinion of the public meeting would be, that they were not interested in the matter?—I think that the general public are interested, and I think that they would one and all allow that they were so.

1365. Would you, in your judgment, have anything like a majority of parties in a public meeting?—I think I should with regard to all parties using the bridge.

1366. But in calling a public meeting, you would get together all the inhabitants of the district, not merely those who used the bridge?—If we called a public meeting, it would be useless to call it except in the neighbourhood, and it would be composed of the parties living in the neighbourhood; but I have no imagination that there would be any diversity of opinion upon this subject.

1367. You would call to the public meeting all the persons upon whom the tax was proposed to be laid?—Yes; and it would then consist of the people in the neighbourhood.

1368. Do you think that the majority of such a meeting would be in your favour?—I can only judge from my own feeling; but I fancy that a common-sense view of the matter would bring one to no other conclusion. I fancy that any person resident in that particular neighbourhood must be desirous of ridding himself of the toll, and would be so, even supposing that he did not save anything by the transaction, as they would then go over the bridge three or four times as frequently as they do at present. I can give an instance with regard to a baker in the immediate neighbourhood. The baker contracts for his tolls, because he does not know how many times he will have to go over the bridge, because much of his custom is with Hampton Court, and it was only a day or two ago that the toll collector of the bridge came to the baker, and told him that the arrangement must cease. She paid 5 *l.* a year for the privilege, and she said that she could not continue the contract any longer, because the 5 *l.* was more than she considered that she was advantaged by it. Now this is but one case, and there are many others. From the fact of the trade of Moulsey being principally with Hampton Court, they would pass and repass more frequently during the day if they had the privilege of going free. If they could get their customers to give what they considered fair and reasonable compensation, they would take their

their goods, and so they would have to pass and repass; the consequence of which is that both sides are prejudiced. *G. W. Andrews, Esq.*

1369. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] There can be no doubt that all the parties who have to pay toll in consequence of carrying on their business near any bridge, would be glad to get rid of the toll; but the Committee are very anxious that you should give them some information as to the general feeling of the neighbourhood upon that subject. It is not your own opinion that we desire, but that of the neighbourhood; the facts that affect the question?—I intended to have prefaced my observations before this Committee, by saying that I spoke rather personally than with regard to the general feeling; but still, having constantly passed the bridge, and carrying on business in the neighbourhood of that bridge, I think I am able to give some information, and I will give you the benefit of all that I possess. 22 June 1854.

1370. *Chairman.*] The Honourable Member for Finsbury asked you whether you thought that if a public meeting were called in your locality, that public meeting would be unanimous as to the advantages which would accrue from throwing the bridges open. Have not public meetings been called upon the subject?—I believe there have been such, but it does not come within my own knowledge. My brother resides in the mill, and I reside at Brentford; that is the reason why I am not so frequently in Moulsey. But I am the person who suffers most by the levy of the toll.

1371. You cross the bridge frequently?—Yes; my waggons cross it very frequently. My own toll would be very small; but in business I think sometimes it has cost me 15 *s.* a week.

1372. Can you give the Committee any information as to the solidity of the bridge?—When my waggon passes over it some people run away, because they are almost sure that the bridge will come down; they are not accustomed to the vibration which is caused by a heavy vehicle, and they imagine that there is danger because it is so great.

Mr. *Evan Hare,* called in; and Examined.

1373. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your occupation?—I am the Solicitor of Putney parish. I hold in my hand a petition, concerning which I was about to write a note to the Honourable Chairman of this Committee, to ask him to be kind enough to present it to the House. The petition says as much as I can possibly say upon the subject. *Mr. Evan Hare.*

1374. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What opportunities have you had of obtaining information which would be useful to this Committee?—I am not prepared to give any information. I have a great deal to do with Putney Bridge; I cross it daily.

1375. Mr. *Jackson.*] Can you give the Committee the cost of the bridge, and its receipts and expenditure?—No, I cannot.

1376. Is there any person connected with the bridge who could furnish the Committee with that information?—I am a shareholder myself; I will come prepared with that information.

1377. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Is there a secretary to the Putney Bridge Company?—There is.

1378. What is his name?—Henry Chasemore, of Fulham.

1379. Mr. *Jackson.*] Who is the engineer of the company?—It is a wooden structure. There is no professional engineer.

1380. Will the secretary be prepared to speak to its present state?—Yes; I think that its present state is very good.

1381. Is there any other gentleman who could give the Committee any information respecting this bridge?—I shall be happy to attend to it myself.

1382. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Do you know the feeling of the inhabitants of Putney as regards the desirableness of throwing open the bridge?—As far as Putney is concerned, the feeling is very strong indeed in favour of removing the toll.

1383. Has there been any meeting held upon the subject?—Yes.

1384. What was the opinion expressed at that meeting?—The opinion expressed was, that if you could charge a larger area by means of a county rate, it would be very desirable.

1385. Did they come to any resolution at that meeting?—Yes; the resolutions are stated in our petition.

Edward Phillips, Esq. called in; and Examined.

E. Phillips, Esq.

22 June 1854.

1386. *Chairman.*] YOU reside at Kingston?—Yes.

1387. You are well acquainted with the condition of Kingston Bridge?—Yes, I am.

1388. And with the state of the traffic over the bridge?—Yes.

1389. Is it your opinion that there is a strong feeling in the locality in favour of making it a free bridge?—There is a very strong feeling upon the subject; they are unanimous.

1390. Do you think that the people of the neighbourhood would be satisfied to bear some tax in lieu of the imposition of the toll?—They would most readily; I have asked many poor men what their feelings were, and they have told me they would willingly pay a subscription for the purpose.

1391. Have you had any public meetings upon the subject?—Yes; we had a large public meeting upon the subject in Kingston.

1392. Did you come to any resolution at that meeting?—Yes, we did; it is embraced in a resolution presented to the House on the 24th of last month.

1393. Mr. *Jackson.* The opinion of the meeting was unanimous in favour of a rate of some description, either direct or indirect, to do away with the tolls?—Yes.

1394. Whether a direct tax, or an indirect tax in the shape of a coal tax, is thought most expedient by the House, they are ready to submit to the tax?—Quite so; but I think the general opinion is in favour of an indirect tax, because as everybody pays, it is almost imperceptible, and the poor man, who will derive a great benefit from the throwing open of the bridge, will pay his share of such a tax.

1395. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do you know anything about the cost of the bridge?—Yes; at the present moment Kingston Bridge is indebted to the Exchequer Loan Commissioners to the amount of 35,000*l.* At all the meetings that have been held, I believe myself and the mayor of Kingston and Mr. Grey were present, and they were unanimous in their opinion.

1396. How many meetings have you attended?—I have attended meetings at Walton, and Hampton Court, and Kingston. There was a very large meeting at Fulham, at which I was not present, and also one at Putney; but we have seen gentlemen who were present at those meetings, and they have told us that a similar opinion was expressed there.

1397. You know that, in all those five places, at least the majority, if not the whole of the inhabitants, were in favour of opening the bridges?—Yes.

1398. And they were prepared to pay the expense of this improvement?—Yes; and that they would prefer the coal tax, because it is an existing tax.

1399. Mr. *Jackson.*] Was there not a meeting held at Staines?—Yes.

1400. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know anything about Richmond Bridge?—Yes, it was built by tontine; that will cease; the toll upon that will cease at the death of an old lady, who is 80 years of age.

1401. Mr. *Jackson.*] Will you explain the nature of a tontine?—Annuity on survivorship. Supposing that 20,000*l.* was required, that would be divided into shares, and any gentleman who took a share might name his child, and put upon that child's life 100*l.* or 500*l.* at 5 per cent., which interest was to be paid as long as the child lived; that was the way in which the money was raised.

1402. Were Parliamentary powers obtained to raise, by means of a tontine, the money to build the bridge?—Yes.

403. Do you know the condition of the bridge?—No, I do not; on the death of that old lady whom I have mentioned the toll will entirely cease, and she is now 80 years of age.

1404. If her interest were to be bought off, the bridge would be free?—Quite. Indeed the Richmond people do not care about the toll upon their bridge, because they know that it will cease before very long.

1405. *Chairman.*] Are you sure of that?—Quite.

1406. On making inquiry about Richmond Bridge, I was told that a captain in the navy had an interest upon it, and that at his death it would go to a lady, who would be the last survivor?—He may have purchased her interest, but of course at her death his interest would cease entirely.

1407. Do

E. Phillips, Esq.

22 June 1854.

1407. Do you know anybody at Richmond who could tell the Committee these facts, of his own knowledge?—Yes; I believe Mr. Pigott could give the Committee that information.

1408. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] But you know that it was raised by tontine, and that there is only one remaining who has any claim upon the bridge, and that that person is 80 years of age?—I know it. Messrs. Smith and Chapman, the solicitors to the bridge, could give the Committee that information. Kew Bridge is a private bridge; it was bought for 19,000 *l.* some years ago; it belongs to a Mr. Robinson. All the people of Kew were unanimously of opinion that the throwing open the bridge would be an excellent thing for them.

1409. Can you tell the Committee the name of any person connected with that bridge, who could give the Committee information about it?—Mr. Robinson is the owner; he resides at Richmond, I believe.

Thomas Ritchings, Esq., called in; and Examined

T. Ritchings, Esq.

1410. Mr. *Jackson.*] WILL you tell the Committee what is the general feeling of the inhabitants of Staines with reference to freeing the bridge from toll?—They are most decidedly in favour of getting rid of the toll, which is a serious injury to both of the towns of Staines and Egham.

1411. Would they object to a tax for the purpose of freeing it entirely of the tolls?—Quite the contrary.

1412. Would they object to be subject to a rate, which should be levied over the area of 20 miles round the Post-office, for the purpose of opening all the bridges over the Thames?—I should say decidedly that they would not.

1413. The feeling of that district would be in favour of submitting to the tax which might be levied over an area of 20 miles, in preference to continuing the bridges as they are at present?—Certainly they would; and more especially as Staines was formerly a very great thoroughfare. At one time there were 100 coaches which passed through the village, besides posting and waggons, the whole of which is now gone.

1414. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Have you taken the opinion of the people of Staines, through the medium of a public meeting?—We have called no public meeting, but at our various vestries it has become a subject of discussion.

1415. You know the opinion of the people; and, as far as you know, everyone is desirous to pay a small tax in order to free the bridge?—Undoubtedly.

1416. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] Can you state whether they would prefer that the coal tax should be continued, or that it should be abolished, and a different mode of rating substituted for it?—I think that the ratepayers would prefer a direct rate, in order to get rid of the toll completely.

1417. Mr. *Jackson.*] If this Committee were to recommend that one or two new bridges should be erected over the Thames, would there be any indisposition on the part of the inhabitants of Staines to pay their share of the cost of those bridges?—I do not know. Our bridge is in the direct line from London, and we hardly know what advantage the town of Staines would derive from any bridge which might be built upon the right or left of us.

1418. If the whole of the metropolis became subject to a tax for the purpose of freeing all the bridges of the metropolis, and it was the opinion of this Committee that another bridge near London would be desirable, the inhabitants of Staines would not object to paying their share of the expense of erecting that bridge?—No.

1419. Do you think that there is so much public spirit in the people of Staines, that if they benefited themselves by taking off the toll, they would also unite with the rest of the metropolis to build other bridges?—I think so.

1420. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Do not the inhabitants of Staines use the metropolitan bridges?—Yes.

1421. And therefore they have an interest in the bridges being thrown open?—Certainly.

1422. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What is the capital of the bridge?—It is 4,000 *l.* I believe the money is raised upon the tolls at 4½ per cent. They pay now little more than one per cent. They paid a little more than that last year, in consequence of the resort of the camp at Chobham.

1423. *Chairman.*] Will you give the Committee a financial statement of the cost, and the expense of maintenance, and the revenue of Staines Bridge?—

T. Ritchings, Esq.

22 June 1854.

I know the cost of the bridge was 8,500 *l.*, and the tolls at one time were 4,000 *l.* a year. The tolls are now, however, considerably less.

1424. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Who does it belong to?—A Mr. Levy has taken possession of it under his mortgage; he holds it as a mortgagee, and makes a small dividend from it.

1425. *Chairman.*] Was the bridge built by a joint-stock company?—It was raised upon bonds.

1426. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Is the one per cent. dividend which is now paid, exclusive of the expenses of keeping the bridge in repair?—There is very little expense in keeping it in repair.

1427. Will you let the Committee know the expense of keeping the bridge in repair, and the income derived from the tolls?—Yes; I will furnish these particulars for the whole period, from the time that the decrease first took place.

1428. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Do you not know upon what terms the bridge could be purchased?—No, except that the bonds could be sold for a very small sum.

1429. *Chairman.*] What is the amount of Mr. Levy's mortgage?—I do not know.

1430. Will you favour the Committee with all the information that you can obtain about the bridge?—I will do so; and I will bring with me next time some gentlemen who are connected with the bridge, and who will be able to give a more decided opinion than I can.

1431. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Will you endeavour to supply this Committee with information, by means of which we can ascertain the actual value of the bridge?—I shall be most happy to afford any information that I can obtain upon the subject. The present price of the bonds would furnish some idea of the probable amount of the redemption. They are now sold at about one-fifth of their original value. Some of the 500 *l.* bonds have been sold for less than 100 *l.*

Henry Selfe, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. Selfe, Esq.

1432. *Chairman.*] WITH what bridge are you acquainted?—Kingston Bridge more particularly.

1433. You have heard the evidence given by the mayor of Kingston?—I have.

1434. Can you add anything to that?—I would remark that one reason that has rendered the toll on Kingston Bridge particularly obnoxious, is its continuance. The bridge has been built now 26 or 28 years; it was set forth at the time that the toll would be removed in a short time, but we have been for a great many years collecting nearly 2,000*l.* toll, and paying almost the whole of that amount upon interest. Although we now pay off 800 *l.* a year, we cannot always do that; at first we only paid 200 *l.* a year towards reducing the debt. If we could have paid that sum and redeemed the bridge at once, it would have been better than to be subject to a constant system of taxation.

1435. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do you wish to pay off the debt on the bridge now?—We are anxious to do so.

1436. Can you supply the Committee with information as to the amount of the debt that remains to be discharged?—That has already been stated to the Committee.

1437. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] With whom rests the duty of settling the amount of the toll?—It is contained in the Act of Parliament obtained by the corporation.

1438. Is the toll fixed?—It is fixed.

1439. Have you any means of altering the toll?—I do not think we possess the power to do so. I have not looked at the Act of Parliament with that view; but I think that, even if we had the power, we could not put the toll lower than it is at present. With regard to the foot passengers, suggestions have been made as to making them pay once a day, but no scheme has been devised by which it could be done.

1440. Do not you think that, by lowering the toll on the bridge, you might possibly obtain a larger revenue?—I do not think so; a cart pays about 3*d.*, and it could not well pay less. All sorts of schemes are resorted to for the purpose of evading it; I have two places of business, and when I send my cart from one to the other, I bring a dozen men each way on purpose to save myself expense.

1441. That would not take place if the toll were more moderate; is it not like

like smuggling in that respect?—It is; but the toll could not well be put at less than 3*d.*

1442. It would not be worth one's while to evade the toll if it were 2*d.*?—I think it would. The Government would directly receive the benefit of the abolition of the toll. It is astonishing to see the number of workmen who work at Hampton Court Palace and live at Kingston; there are no working-men's houses at Hampton Court, and they consequently pass and repass in the day. The Government contractors for carpenters', bricklayers', plaisterers', masons', and plumbers' work reside at Kingston occasionally, and their men reside mostly near their shops of work.

Jovis, 29° die Junii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Oliveira.	Lord Alfred Hervey.
Mr. Wilkinson.	Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Lord Robert Grosvenor.	Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Pellatt.	

BENJAMIN OLIVEIRA, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Thomas Ashby*, called in; and Examined.

1443. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you reside at Staines?—Yes, I do.

1444. Will you be so good as to give the Committee any information which you possess, with respect to the condition of the bridge at Staines?—As regards the building, it is in a very good condition.

1445. Do you think that the people of your locality desire that it should be made free?—They do desire it.

1446. Was not a petition sent to the House of Commons, requesting that the bridge might be thrown open?—There has been a petition presented to The House generally, signed by all the inhabitants of Staines without exception.

1447. What is the general feeling with reference to the means that should be applied for the purpose of freeing the bridge?—There have been several objects named; one is the coal tax; another a county rate; another a district rate within 20 miles of the Post-office; but the general feeling of the people, as far as I can gather it, is that the coal tax should be continued.

1448. With a view not only to that, but other bridges over the river?—Yes.

1449. Are you acquainted with the financial condition of Staines Bridge?—Yes, I am.

1450. Have you any documentary evidence upon that subject?—I have not here any documentary evidence.

1451. Can you state any facts concerning the financial affairs of the bridge, from recollection?—The debt is 80,500 *l.*, borrowed upon bonds.

1452. When was the bridge built?—The Act passed in 1828, and the bridge was opened in 1832.

1453. Was it built by proprietors?—It was built by means of money borrowed on bonds; it was a mortgage of the tolls. There was not any speculation like that of a railway company.

1454. What have been the returns of the revenue?—The income at the time the bridge was built, and for about eight years afterwards, amounted to from 4,000 *l.* to 4,570 *l.* It was let every year, and the rent varied between those two sums.

1455. That would pay about 4 ½ per cent. upon the original capital?—It would.

1456. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Was that 80,500 *l.* the whole cost?—It was the money borrowed. It was the whole cost of the construction of the bridge and of approaches.

1457. No part of the debt has been paid off?—None.

Mr. *T. Ashby.*

29 June 1854.

1458. *Chairman.*] Have the tolls paid that amount of late years?—They have not.

1459. What have they paid for the last four or five years?—The money was borrowed at the rate of 4 ½ per cent., which continued to be paid up to the end of 1838. The receipts fell off in 1839, and from that period up to the 1st April 1840 only three per cent. was paid.

1460. Since that time what has been paid?—Two per cent. was paid from the 1st of April 1840 to the 28th of August 1841. Since that period only one per cent. was paid by the Commissioners when it was in their hands. At the end of 1852 one of the mortgagees filed a bill and obtained possession, and is now in possession of the tolls.

1461. That is to say, one of the bondholders?—Yes.

1462. Does he hold it in trust for his co-proprietors?—Yes, he does.

1463. It pays one per cent. only?—It paid one per cent. when managed by the Commissioners; the last payment they made was at that rate. Since it has been in the mortgagees' hands it has averaged about 1 ½ per cent.

1464. Has any calculation been made as to the terms upon which the mortgagees would be disposed to treat for the sale of the bridge to the public?—People vary in their opinions on that subject; it is impossible to ascertain.

1465. Has any attempt been made to negotiate with the mortgagees about the sale of the bridge?—There has not been any such attempt; but the bonds that have been sold of late have been sold at about 16 per cent. upon their original cost; that is to say, at a sixth part of their cost.

1466. That is to say, a bond for 100 *l.* was sold for 16 *l.*?—Yes. The last purchase which I know of was of a bond for 150 *l.*, which was sold for 25 *l.*, and I have heard of other bonds being offered at the same terms.

1467. Your opinion is, that in order to have the bridge thrown open the inhabitants would either bear a local rate, or would submit to a continuance of the coal tax?—I believe they would willingly.

1468. At the last meeting of the Committee, one of the witnesses said that a penny rate levied upon the two counties of Middlesex and Surrey for one year would be sufficient to open this bridge, and all the other bridges above Vauxhall Bridge. Have you made any calculation upon that subject?—I have not.

1469. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] You are of opinion that the levying of the toll upon Staines Bridge interferes with the communication by carriages and horses in the district?—It is a great injury to our town.

1470. In what way does it injure the town?—It prevents people from coming to our shops; and it is a high toll, 6 *d.* per horse.

1471. Where would customers come from, were it not for the toll?—On the Surrey side they would come from Egham and Thorp, and all round the places on that side of the river.

1472. Where do these people now go instead of coming to Staines?—They go to Egham and Windsor, and to Chertsey, and the other places round.

1473. Do they escape toll altogether in those directions?—They do. I may mention that a person told me this morning that he lost three customers entirely in consequence of this toll.

1474. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Has the toll always been the same?—I do not remember it ever being altered. I would just mention one thing: there is a new railway about to be opened in the course of 12 months, which will reduce the tolls very considerably.

1475. Lord *A. Hervey.*] How have you collected the opinion of the neighbourhood upon this subject?—Not by a public meeting, but by private communication.

1476. Do you think that the opinion which you have expressed is the general opinion of the neighbourhood?—I think it is.

1477. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] During the sitting of this Committee there has been a good deal of talk about the matter?—There has been.

1478. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is it your opinion that the lowering of this toll would bring a larger amount of traffic on the bridge; do not you think the high toll prevents people from using the bridges?—The high toll keeps the traffic off, certainly; we cannot avoid our toll, but it prevents persons coming into our town.

1479. Do you think that there is traffic enough between Staines and the surrounding country to make the bridge pay if the toll were very much reduced?—

reduced?—If it were very much lower, the traffic into Staines would be increased.

1480. Might not an increase of income be derived from a lowering of the toll?—I think not.

1481. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you think Staines would be benefited if the toll were taken off?—Undoubtedly.

1482. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Can you account for the considerable falling off of the toll which has taken place since 1838?—It was caused by the opening of the railroad; it dates from that; the receipts kept up till the year 1838; in 1839 they fell from 4,000 *l.* to 2,700 *l.*, the following year to 2,000 *l.*, the next to 1,800 *l.*, the next to 1,600 *l.*, and they are now at about 1,200 *l.*

1483. What is the toll for foot passengers?—There is no toll on foot passengers.

1484. *Chairman.*] Has that always been so?—Always.

1485. That is provided in the Act of Parliament?—Yes.

1486. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Was there ever a free bridge there in your recollection?—No, there has always been a toll there; we have unfortunately had five bridges on that spot in my time.

1487. What was the cause of that?—In the first instance a stone bridge was built, and instead of piling it properly, they sunk it in caissons of piles, and those piles gave way after the bridge was built.

1488. That arose from the insecurity of the foundations?—From the insecurity of the foundations. The second was an iron bridge, and one of the abutments gave way.

1489. *Chairman.*] Can you give us any account of the financial condition of the bridge?—I was able to ascertain the income for the last five years; the average of the last five years has been upwards of 1,250 *l.*

1490. Which pays about one per cent. upon the original capital?—Yes; I hold a paper in my hand containing a statement of the revenue of the bridge from the commencement.

1491. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Will you hand that paper in?—

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

STAINES BRIDGE BONDS, £. 80,500, at 4 ½ per Cent. Bridge opened 23 April 1832.

	Income.	
	£.	
1829	4,285	
1830	4,545	
1831	4,570	
1832	4,275	
1833	4,305	
1834	4,220	
1835	4,230	
1836	4,335	
1837	4,225	
1838	4,035	Interest at 4 ½ per cent. paid on the bonds up to 31 December 1838.
1839	2,714	
1840	1,990	Three per cent. per annum paid on account of interest from 31 December 1838 to 1st April 1840.
1841	1,872	
1842	1,635	
1843	—	Two per cent. per annum paid on account of interest from 1st April 1840 to 28 August 1841, and only one per cent. afterwards paid by the commissioners.
1844	—	
1845	—	
1846	—	
1847	—	
1848	1,197	The tolls have been received by the mortgagee in possession since the year 1842.
1849	1,252	
1850	1,278	
1851	1,286	
1852	1,264	
1853	1,538	The camp at Chobham increased the income about 300 *l.*

Average annual expenditure, about 90 *l.*

Mr. *Frederick Ashby*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *F. Ashby*.

29 June 1854.

1492. *Chairman.*] HAVE you anything to add to the evidence given by the last witness?—In allusion to the injury that the toll causes to the town, I may state that it keeps out a good connexion in the neighbourhood of Englefield-green, more particularly, and Egham; and our shopkeepers feel this extremely. Rather than pay this toll of 6 *d.*, the people of this district go to Chertsey, several miles out of their way, and our town feels it very much indeed. As regards the locality, generally speaking, the toll has been very injurious.

1493. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Generally speaking, is there not a repugnance to paying that toll greater than the amount of the toll would warrant?—I know that gentlemen sometimes drive up to the end of the bridge, and get out and walk over the bridge, rather than pay the toll.

1494. Has the opinion been expressed by the inhabitants of Staines that they would be glad to submit themselves to a general taxation by the coal tax, or a direct tax, for the purpose of freeing all the bridges from toll from London Bridge to theirs?—I believe they would entirely concur in such a measure.

1495. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] That feeling is not confined to a measure for freeing those which we should call the out-of-town bridges, but it extends to the metropolitan bridges also?—Yes; they would bear an equal proportion of the burden if they were called upon to do so.

1496. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] There is no other bridge required in your neighbourhood?—No, I think not at all.

1497. Mr. *Jackson.*] If the increase of population between Staines and London Bridge should require other bridges to be built, you would not object to bear your share of the taxation necessary for that purpose?—I think not at all.

1498. *Chairman.*] Which would be the more popular tax, if I may use the term, a continuance of the coal tax or a special rate?—A continuance of the coal tax.

Edward Wilson, Esq., called in; and Examined.

E. Wilson, Esq.

1499. *Chairman.*] I THINK you reside in Walton?—I do.

1500. Will you give the Committee your view as to the feeling in the neighbourhood about throwing open the bridges?—Walton Bridge is a very old bridge; I cannot tell you the date of the first Act, but I know that it was renewed by a second Act of Parliament to the relatives of the former proprietor, Mr. Dacre.

1501. When did the renewal take place?—I cannot state the date of it.

1502. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Was the bridge built and sustained by private enterprise?—It was; and is so to this date.

1503. *Chairman.*] Will you tell the Committee by what Act of Parliament the bridge was built?—I cannot; probably Mr. Drewett, who is a resident of Walton, can give the Committee the best information as to that. I understand that it is farmed for 300 *l.* a year to a man of the name of White, who himself takes the tolls.

1504. Is the toll on this bridge felt to be a great grievance?—A very great one; in fact it almost shuts off the Middlesex side of the river from the Surrey side; it is midway between Sunbury and Shepperton, and it is the nearest communication from a very great part of Surrey to what used to be the Great Western Road by Bedfont, and also to Uxbridge, and all that part of Middlesex. The bridge itself forms a very steep acclivity, and the toll-house is situated immediately at the foot of this steep acclivity on the Middlesex side, and is certainly very dangerous.

1505. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Can you inform the Committee in what state the bridge is?—It is not in a good state of repair.

1506. Would it not be advantageous to build a new one?—The present one answers its purpose very well; but I cannot say whether a new bridge would be desirable or not.

1507. Is there much traffic over it now?—At present there is very little.

1508. If this bridge were thrown open, together with all the other bridges, so that they would compete fairly one with another, would the traffic over Walton Bridge

Bridge increase much?—Very considerably; it would be the great thoroughfare from this neighbourhood to the greatest part of Middlesex.

1509. By which way do the inhabitants now go to Middlesex?—They avoid the toll by going through Weybridge and over Chertsey Bridge, which is a free bridge, but it is a very long way round; the distance that would be saved by going over Walton Bridge instead of Chertsey Bridge, would be at least one mile and a half, or two miles.

1510. Is there any heavy traffic in that part of the country?—There would be a great deal of local traffic. There are very large brickfields on the Middlesex side of the river, and it is also a very large agricultural district, so that the traffic by Walton Bridge, if it were thrown open, would be very great.

1511. Would you not regard it as a great disadvantage to heavy traffic to have to cross a bridge with a great acclivity?—It is; but I attribute the dislike of the gentry to going over the bridge very much to the fact of the traffic not being large enough to keep a person always on the look-out, as they are in the immediate neighbourhood of the metropolis. The toll-gate is kept locked, and parties have to wait continually for the opening of the gate.

1512. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] If it is on a steep acclivity, and there is a toll-house in a position which you describe as dangerous, the bridge does not answer its purpose particlarly well?—The removal of the toll-house would remove that one particular objection; I conceive there might be engineering difficulties on the Middlesex side, in reducing that acclivity. I do not give a professional opinion upon that point, but the Middlesex side is very flat.

1513. *Chairman.*] Has any attempt been made by private individuals to throw the bridge open?—I have not heard of any.

1514. It is producing about 300 *l.* a year?—I understand that it is let for that; I would just mention one local grievance that we suffer from the toll. Our post is at nine o'clock in the morning, and six in the afternoon, but letters posted by six o'clock do not go out of London the same evening; but if we could send over to Sunbury by three o'clock the letters would go out the same evening, and if we could do that without paying this toll it would be a great convenience.

1515. Mr. *Jackson.*] The toll is in reality a public obstruction?—In that respect, decidedly.

1516. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Do foot passengers pay the toll?—They pay ½ *d.* each way.

1517. Mr. *Jackson.*] Have you ascertained the feeling of the inhabitants of Walton and the neighbourhood with reference to imposing a rate in order to have the bridge thrown open?—I think it would be an unpopular measure for the inhabitants of the immediate locality alone to be rated. They look at the removal of the toll as a benefit, not to themselves alone, but to the public generally in the counties of Surrey and Middlesex. They are also victims (if I may so call it) to Kingston and Hampton Court Bridges; for their direct communication with London is across those two bridges, and in order to avoid them they are obliged to go through the Moulseys, which is a round of about two or three miles.

1518. Would they have any objection to share in a rate in common with others to open all the bridges over the Thames from London Bridge to Staines?—If it were a county rate on Middlesex and Surrey, I do not believe that there would be any objection on their part to it; but undoubtedly the most popular course would be the extension of the coal tax, since it would be continued for so very short a period that it would not be felt.

1519. You think that they would willingly be subject to any tax, direct or indirect, for the purpose of throwing the bridges open?—Undoubtedly.

1520. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] They would not object to bear their part in a general system of taxation?—Provided that it were fairly levied, they would not; but a tax merely laid on Walton on the one side, and on Shepperton and Sunbury on the other, would not be considered fair, and would be very unpopular.

1521. Mr. *Jackson.*] They would prefer a general rate spread over a large district?—Yes; I may say that I have considerable house property besides the house I reside in at Walton, and that therefore I speak with some authority on the subject.

1522. You would be a considerable ratepayer if any rate were laid upon the district?—My tenants pay their own rates.

E. Wilson, Esq.

29 June 1854.

1523. Still the amount of your lettings depends upon the rates that have to be paid, therefore it falls upon you as the landlord; do not you find that houses would not let so well if there were heavy rates?—Of course there would be some little alteration in that respect; but the present inconvenience is a great thing, which every one feels.

1524. Of course the amount which you get for the houses diminishes as their rent diminishes?—There is just now a great demand for houses in that neighbourhood, and that is one reason why I think it would be so desirable to try to get rid of the tolls. The whole of Oatlands Park, which formerly belonged to the Duke of York, is being built upon, and thus Weybridge is thrown open to this bridge; whereas formerly the communication was not so direct, on account of the park gates often being shut. The whole of the buildings will be rated; the facility, and the railway has now made it more important that this bridge should be thrown open. The inhabitants consider that having paid their quota to the coal tax for so long a period, without deriving any other advantage from it than that which everybody within the area of 20 miles derives from the improvements which have been made in London and the West End, they ought now to have some little advantage from that tax in the removal of the obstructions which press individually upon themselves.

1525. You want it to be applied more generally than it has hitherto been?—The improvements to London Bridge, and New Oxford-street, and other facilities for getting into the City, which have been created by means of this tax, is undoubtedly an advantage to those living within an area of 20 miles; but they would be of greater advantage to the immediate inhabitants of Walton if Kingston Bridge, and Hampton Court Bridge, and Walton Bridge were thrown open.

1526. You have stated that you do not know the dates at which the Acts of Parliament for constructing Walton Bridge were passed?—No; but the date of the petition states both the original building of the bridge, and also the time when the second Act of Parliament was obtained. There used formerly to be a ferry there, and Julius Cæsar crossed the River Thames just above the site of this bridge at a place which is called the "Coway Meadows;" and a short time ago there was one of the remaining stakes with which the river was staked in order to oppose his progress. I find that the first Act passed for the purpose was the 20th Geo. 2, c. 22, and the second was the 20th Geo. 2, c. 32.

Francis Jackson, Esq., called in; and Examined.

F. Jackson, Esq.

1527. *Chairman.*] YOU reside at Hampton?—I do.

1528. Your evidence therefore will refer principally to Hampton Court Bridge?—Principally; but I have lived in the neighbourhood all my life, and know all the bridges.

1529. When was Hampton Court Bridge built?—This is the only Act with respect to it which I could obtain (*producing the same*). By this Act it appears that the bridge was built in the 23d Geo. 2.

1530. Was it built by means of shares?—It was built under a special Act of Parliament granted to a gentleman named Mr. Clark. In the Act there is a proviso that the Crown shall, at the expiration of 26 years from the period of building it, be empowered to buy the bridge upon paying the expenses of building.

1531. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Will you read the title of the Act?—It is the 23d Geo. 2, c. 37. "An Act for building a Bridge across the River of Thames, from Hampton Court, in the County of Middlesex, to Moulsey, in the County of Surrey."

1532. Mr. *Jackson.*] Is it your opinion that, if this bridge were thrown open, in company with the other bridges over the Thames, the inhabitants of your district would be prepared to pay their quota of the taxation necessary for that purpose?—Unquestionably; there is a unanimous opinion to that effect among the inhabitants of the district. I have an opportunity, professionally, of knowing the feeling of the whole of the neighbourhood, perhaps better than most individuals, and I think that as to this subject it is unanimous.

1533. Whether it were for the purpose of freeing all the bridges which now exist from London Bridge to Staines, or for the erection of any other bridges that might be necessary, you think that the inhabitants of this district would be willing

willing to pay their quota of the taxation?—I think they would, almost one and all. I have had ample opportunity of judging on the subject, perhaps better opportunity than most individuals, and my opinion is, that the general feeling would be, in the first instance, that the expense should be borne by means of the continuance of the coal tax for a limited period; that if that were not provided for by that means, a county rate upon both the counties of Middlesex and Surrey should be resorted to; and that if that failed, sooner than not have open communication between the counties, we would submit very cheerfully to any tax that The House should think fit to inflict, be it a local tax or a general tax. But we certainly think that the bridge should be thrown open.

1534. Do you consider that the want of sufficient communication across the river injures the property in your neighbourhood?—Certainly. The injury that I individually sustain is so great, that I would gladly give 300*l.* or perhaps 500*l.*, in order that the Hampton Court Bridge might be thrown open. I am the largest house proprietor in the parish of Hampton, and a very large proprietor in the parish of Moulsey also, and I would very willingly give that sum to aid in the throwing open of the bridge.

1535. That is because you find the toll so serious an injury to your property?—It is ruin to the property in the neighbourhood. For instance, Hampton Court Palace is on one side of the bridge and the railway terminus is on the other, and the parties residing in Hampton Court Palace and the owners of property there have to pay the toll daily in going backwards and forwards to London. There is another very great inconvenience arising from the toll: of course, Hampton Court Palace is a large place, and the Middlesex side of the river is also very populous, much more so than the Surrey side. At Hampton Court there are innumerable workmen employed, and there are no lodgings to be had on the Middlesex side. Moulsey is close; and every man who goes to work at Hampton Court has to pay the toll twice or three times a day backwards and forwards. The toll is a halfpenny on a week day, and a penny on the Sunday.

1536. Either as the owners of houses and property, or as producers and consumers, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood all find this tax on the bridge to be a serious injury?—Most certainly; a workman told me last week that it cost him 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week (he working at Hampton Court) to go backwards and forwards across the bridge. He had to go at breakfast-time and at dinner-time. Then again, it is a serious thing with regard to a place of worship. Moulsey has a very small church, and the inhabitants are obliged to go to the Middlesex side in order to attend a place of worship.

1537. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] How do you account for the fact that the inhabitants have not taken some steps to free themselves from this inconvenience?—They have not done so for the best of all possible reasons. This bridge when it was built cost, I suppose, 7,000*l.* or 8,000*l.*, and it is now let for somewhere about 100*l.* a year; so that the expenditure which would be required to purchase it would be so great, that there is no possibility that any private individual would encounter it. Of course it would be but right that the owner of the bridge should make the most of his property. The bridge is in a very dilapidated state; if you go over the bridge with a loaded waggon, you would see that, as it is going over, the bridge would shake just as I can shake this table, and you would be afraid to go over it. I have seen within this last year holes made right through the bridge by carts going over it.

1538. You have stated that you are acquainted with several of the bridges; can you tell the Committee what you think would be the cost of redeeming all the rural bridges?—No, I cannot say what would be the cost of redeeming them; I should say that the cost of redeeming Hampton Court Bridge would be somewhere about 5,000*l.* or 6,000*l.* Under the Act of Parliament, 5,000*l.* or 6,000*l.* ought to purchase it.

1539. It may be purchased by the Crown according to the Act?—Clearly, the Crown is authorised to purchase it at any time.

1540. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Has that Act ever been renewed?—No, it has never been renewed. It enacts that, after the expiration of 26 years from the building of the bridge, the Crown shall have the right of purchasing it at the original cost.

1541. *Chairman.*] The original cost was 7,000*l.*, was not it?—I presume so; that has been stated to me, and I believe that that was the original cost.

F. Jackson, Esq.

29 June 1854.

1542. Are you acquainted with Kingston Bridge?—Thoroughly.

1543. Is the same feeling prevalent in that neighbourhood with regard to the opening of the bridge, as in the neighbourhood of Hampton Court Bridge?—Quite so; the toll on that bridge is also injurious to Hampton Court. There is a market at Kingston, but of course the toll entirely prevents all the labouring classes from buying their commodities to the best advantage. Then with regard to the Post-office, there is a very great objection on that score, and for this reason: the Post-office on the Middlesex side of the river at Hampton Court is within 50 yards of the bridge, and all persons residing in the most populous part of Moulsey are compelled to pay a toll in order to put a letter in the post, although they may live only 100 yards from the Post-office, because there is no Post-office in Moulsey, except at the public-house at the extreme end of the village.

1544. The railway terminus is on the Surrey side of the river, is not it?—Yes, and Hampton Court on the Middlesex side, and all communication between the two is completely cut off.

1545. Would one bridge, if it were free, afford sufficient accommodation to the neighbourhood without requiring any other?—Yes.

1546. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Is it not the fact that Hampton Court Bridge was badly built?—It is in a very dilapidated state; and the toll collectors are so strict, that I have within this last two years seen a soldier summoned before the bench of magistrates to pay the toll, although soldiers are exempt.

Mr. *Robert Smith*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *R. Smith.*

1547. *Chairman.*] ARE you acquainted with Richmond Bridge?—I am.

1548. When was Richmond Bridge built?—It was in course of erection from 1774 to 1776.

1549. It was built under a private Act of Parliament?—Under a private Act of Parliament.

1550. To whom was that Act granted?—To certain commissioners named in the Act.

1551. What was the cost of the bridge?—I think it was about 30,000 *l.*

1552. Mr. *Jackson.*] Will you state the history of the bridge, specifying how the money was raised for its construction, what it has cost, and what is its present financial condition?—I believe that the sum raised was 30,000 *l.*; 5,000 *l.* was raised upon bonds, which appear to have been paid off; 20,000 *l.* upon the first tontine, which included 200 lives at 4 per cent.; and 5,000 *l.* upon the second tontine, also at 4 per cent. There were 200 lives in the first tontine, and 50 in the second, and there are now remaining only one in the first and two in the second, and they are upwards of 80 years old; one of the parties interested is nearly 80 years old, and the others are upwards of 80.

1553. When these lives drop, what will be the condition of the bridge?—It will be free.

1554. Is there any provision for the maintenance of the bridge in proper repair after that time?—Yes, there is a sum invested for that purpose.

1555. What is the amount of it?—£.14,000.

1556. What is it invested in?—In consols.

1557. In whose names is it invested?—In the names of the commissioners of the bridge.

1558. Do the powers of the commissioners continue after the debt is paid off?—Yes, they will, for the purpose of keeping the bridge in repair.

1559. Do you think that the amount vested in consols will produce a sum per annum sufficient to keep the bridge in order, and to pay all the charges incident thereto?—Yes; virtually, when one of the nominees, the only survivor in the first tontine, dies, the bridge will be free.

1560. Do you think that if Parliament gave the power to throw open the bridges on the Thames, the inhabitants of Richmond would have any objection to give up that 14,000 *l.* and come under the rate together with their neighbours, for the purpose of throwing open the bridges?—I think they would; they would rather not be taxed any further; they think that they have done quite sufficient in having kept their bridge in repair.

1561. You do not suppose that the opinion of the inhabitants, generally, would be opposed to the levy of a rate over an area for the purpose of keeping the bridges in repair?—Certainly as to Richmond.

1562. Have

139

Mr. *R. Smith.*

29 June 1854.

1562. Have the inhabitants of Richmond any interest in the other rural bridges?—I think not.

1563. Then so far as Richmond is concerned, you think that a county rate would rather be an injury?—Certainly.

1564. In fact, the bridge in the course of a year or two will probably be free?—There is only one life in the first tontine, and the old lady thus interested was 80 years old last January, and at her death the bridge will be virtually free, for there is only 200 *l.* a year to be paid to the other two nominees, which I consider the dividends will be sufficient to pay without any toll.

1565. What is the table which you hold in your hand?—It is a statement of the amount of the tolls which have been received for the last four years, and of the rate of toll which is levied under the Act.

1566. Will you hand it in?—

[*The same was handed in, and is as follows:*]

RECEIPTS FROM TOLLS.

	£.	s.	d.
1850	745	7	1
1851	858	17	–
1852	813	18	6
1853	825	4	–

RATE OF TOLL LEVIED UNDER THE ACT.

TOLLS.	AUTHORISED BY ACT EACH WAY.	AUTHORISED ON SUNDAY EACH WAY.	NOW TAKEN ONLY ONE WAY.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Carriage and six	2 6	2 6	1 6
Carriage and four	2 –	2 –	– 6
Carriage and two or three	1 –	1 6	– 3
Carriage and one	– 8	1 –	– 1½
Waggon and four or six	1 6	– – –	– 6
Waggon and two or three	1 –	– – –	– 3
Waggon and one	– 8	– – –	– 1½
Higgler's cart	– 6	– – –	– 1½
Horse, mule, or ass	– 2	– 2	– 1
Foot passenger	– –½	– –½	—
Ditto, with wheelbarrow	– 1	—	
Neat cattle - each	– 2	– 2	– –½
Calves, hogs, sheep - per score	– 6	– 6	– 2

1567. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] What is the present amount of the tolls?—For the last year it was 825 *l.*; but since the 1st of May last, when the toll upon foot passengers was taken off, though I do not think that that alteration is the sole cause of the decrease, the tolls have decreased 20 *l.* a month.

1568. Does this lady, who still continues on the tontine, receive the amount of the tolls, or a fixed annual sum?—She receives a fixed annual sum; it is now 800 *l.* a year.

1569. Mr. *Jackson.*] What was the original amount that she invested in the bridge?—£.100.

1570. And she is now receiving 800 *l.*?—Yes; she has received one half-yearly payment at that rate. In the year before she received 400 *l.*, for there were then two survivors.

1571. *Chairman.*] Would the 14,000 *l.* which has been invested in Consols by

Mr. *R. Smith.*

29 June 1854.

the commissioners of the bridge pay the money requisite for keeping the bridge in repair?—Yes.

1572. Is not the gradient of the bridge on the Surrey side rather steep?—It was about 20 years ago, and it has been rendered rather unsightly towards the River Thames in consequence of that; for there has been a brick wall built up as a balustrade.

1573. Is there not now a great descent on the Richmond side of the bridge?—There is a very great descent.

1574. Cannot that defect be remedied?—I am afraid that it cannot. The commissioners consulted the engineer of the bridge about it some years ago, and he thought that it could not be remedied.

Major *Charles Lestock Boileau*, called in; and Examined.

Major *C. L. Boileau.*

1575. *Chairman.*] WITH what bridge are you acquainted?—I have been for 15 years chairman of the Hammersmith Bridge Company.

1576. Is not that a chain bridge?—It is a suspension bridge supported by chains.

1577. Hammersmith Bridge was built under an Act of Parliament by shares?—Yes; it was built by shares in 1824.

1578. Will you be so kind as to give us the financial history of the bridge?—The cost of the bridge was about 50,000*l.* There are 3¼ miles of road which we have to maintain, our Act of Parliament having authorised us to make approaches as well as to build the bridge; and these roads passed through property which it was necessary for us to purchase; there were several houses which we had to pull down on the Hammersmith side of the river, and there was a great destruction of property. The cost of this and the roads was about 15,000*l.* Then besides that, the expenses of the Act of Parliament which we had to obtain, and the engineering and surveying expenses, and the difference between the purchase and the sale of the land which we had to buy, amounted to about 20,000*l.*, making altogether 85,000*l.* The circumstances are simply these: By the Act of Parliament we, in passing through the estate of Mr. Hoare, who held the great part of the land in Barnes, through which we had to pass, were required, if Mr. Hoare wished it, to buy the whole, instead of buying only what we wanted. He chose that we should buy the whole; and having done this, and made the approaches to our bridge over a part of the estate, we could not sell the remainder of it at the same price as the price at which we had bought it in its entirety. The 20,000*l.* set down in our accounts for law expenses, engineering, surveying, and so on, included the difference between the purchase of Mr. Hoare's estate and other estates, and the sale of that part of the land which we disposed of after having made the approaches.

1579. Mr. *Jackson.*] The whole cost of the bridge was 85,000*l.*?—Yes, with the roads.

1580. What has been the income of the bridge?—It has averaged for the last seven years 3,000*l.* a year; it is increasing.

1581. Is that net income?—It is the gross.

1582. What do the charges upon it amount to?—About 1,500*l.* a year.

1583. *Chairman.*] Do you publish annual reports?—They are not printed; we have them in the minute-book.

1584. Will you give the Committee a copy of your last year's reports?—These would not give you the particulars that you are now asking for, because the report only embraces the currencies of the year, and does not include the financial statement of the whole expenses of the company. I could send to you our printed balance-sheet; but even that would not give you all that is necessary.

1585. Mr. *Jackson.*] According to your statement the bridge cost 85,000*l.*; the gross revenue is 3,000*l.* per annum, and the expenses 1,500*l.*, leaving 1,500*l.* as the net annual revenue?—It is more than that now.

1586. What was the gross revenue for last year?—About 3,700*l.*; we have divided 28*s.* a share upon 1,578 shares. Our original capital, as I mentioned, was raised by shares. There were 1,600 shares originally; but 22 were forfeited, so that they have been reduced to the present number of 1,578, upon which we paid last year a dividend of 28*s.* per share. The 80,000*l.* of original capital was raised

raised in 1,600 shares of 50*l.* each; in addition to which there was a sum of 15,000*l.* borrowed to buy Mr. Hoare's property, and the sale of that part of it which we did not require for our roads only realised about 10,000*l.*; so that there was an additional expenditure of 5,000*l.* out of income, which, added to the 80,000*l.*, makes 85,000*l.*

1587. Is there any debt upon the bridge property now?—None.

1588. The bridge is in the position of having cost 1,578 shares of 50*l.* each?—A little more than that, inasmuch as there was some money paid upon the 22 shares. We might reckon the cost of the bridge at 1,600 shares of 50*l.* each besides the 5,000*l.*, which arose from the circumstance that of the 15,000*l.* borrowed only 10,000*l.* was paid off by the resale of property, and the remaining 5,000*l.* was paid out of the income which would otherwise have gone to the proprietors of the bridge.

1589. The 5,000*l.* is paid off?—That debt has been paid off out of the revenue of the bridge.

1590. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Are the tolls at the present moment mortgaged for 80,000*l.* or 85,000*l.*?—The capital really paid by the proprietors amounts to 85,000*l.*

1591. What is the present amount of your capital?—£. 85,000.

1592. Of which they have redeemed 5,000*l.* by taking it out of the revenue?—Yes, to meet the amount required for the purchase and resale of the estate in addition to the expense of building the bridge and constructing the roads. The bridge and the approaches have cost the proprietors 85,000*l.*, of which they paid 80,000*l.* in shares and 5,000*l.* out of their revenue.

1593. *Chairman.*] Are the tolls increasing?—They are increasing at the rate of 150*l.* a year.

1594. What dividend do they pay?—Twenty-eight shillings per share.

1595. Have your proprietors any desire that the bridge should be freed?—I think the proprietors are very indifferent about it; of course, if they got the fair value of it, they would be disposed to part with it.

1596. What is the market price of the shares?—About 28*l.* per share, to pay five per cent.

1597. Do you think that there is a desire by the proprietors of the houses on the Surrey side to have the bridge opened?—Among those immediately adjoining the bridge, I do not think that there is; I happen to live there myself, and am the proprietor of a good many houses there, and we find that the toll keeps our side very quiet and select. If you go on this side of London from Piccadilly to Hammersmith you will see continuous lines of houses, but directly you cross Hammersmith Bridge you are in the open country free from the annoyances of Town.

1598. Is not there an estate in that neighbourhood called the "Castlenau Estate"?—Yes, I am the proprietor of that estate, and I speak particularly with reference to that estate. The houses are near the bridge, and I do not think my tenants would, upon the whole, desire the toll to be taken off, because it keeps the place free from the annoyances which form an objection to living on the Middlesex side.

1599. Do the bridge authorities make any exemption in favour of the property you possess?—None at all.

1600. The occupiers of your houses pay the same toll as other people?—Everybody pays the same toll.

1601. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] What is the toll?—For a single horse and carriage, 4*d.*; and for two horses, 6*d.* It is a much less toll than those of Putney Bridge and Kew Bridge, which are the two bridges on either side of us.

1602. Do foot passengers pay a toll?—Yes, a ½*d.*, and one horse 1½*d.*, when single, and 4*d.* when drawing.

1603. The bridge is very sound?—Yes, very sound; we make annually such repairs as are necessary. A few years ago we made a thorough repair, in so far as originally it was constructed with wooden beams to support the platform, and as in the course of 20 years they had almost perished, we substituted iron girders, so that the bridge is in a sound state.

1604. Immediately adjoining the bridge, on the Surrey side, you have a freehold land estate?—It is chiefly land held under the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's.

Major *C. L. Boileau.*

29 June 1854.

1605. Has not that been purchased by a freehold land society?—A small portion. It belonged to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, and when the Hammersmith Bridge Company bought the whole of the estate, of which this is a portion, they sold a part to the West Middlesex Water Company, and that was enfranchised from the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, consequently that portion is freehold; but all the rest remains under the Dean and Chapter. A small portion of the land which the West Middlesex Water Company bought and enfranchised, they have sold to a land society.

1606. You think if the bridge were thrown open there would be a vast increase of traffic, which would rather spoil the seclusion of your houses?—I do not think that there would be a vast increase of traffic. It would interfere with the comfort of the inhabitants, as organ boys, and beggars, and other people of the same description would come there. The removal of the tolls would not much increase the traffic, but it would interfere very much with the privacy of families and children who go there to live in quiet.

1607. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do not you think the inhabitants of Hammersmith would desire to have the tolls removed?—I dare say they might, but I do not think it would much affect them, because the inhabitants have their chief attraction in London; the attraction is not so much to the other side of the water.

1608. If the toll was removed, would it not facilitate the building in the neighbourhood of your part?—Yes.

1609. Would not there arise a benefit to the traders of Hammersmith from supplying the parties who would go there?—That is true; but as the buildings increase on my side of the river, we shall have shops there. I have built several shops myself; and some will be built upon this land, which is about to be built upon by a building society; they have planned out the ground for the erection of shops which will supply the locality.

1610. Would not the inhabitants be debarred from the advantage of their competition by the toll?—Certainly there would be an advantage in the competition; but we do not find any impediment from the toll at present; the Hammersmith people supplied us before my shops were built; and even now the Hammersmith tradesmen do a good deal of business in my neighbourhood.

1611. *Chairman.*] You do not make any exception in favour of the Hammersmith people?—Not at all; there is no exemption, not even for the directors of the company.

1612. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Is there any communication by post on the Hammersmith side of the river?—It is rather quicker on that side of the river than on ours, inasmuch as the General Post-office send the letters for us on to Sheen on our side, for there is no delivery of the letters from Hammersmith into Surrey; and when letters are addressed to me at Castlenau, near "Hammersmith," they are never sent across the river, but are returned to the London Post-office, and re-dispatched to me.

1613. Where is your nearest post-office?—On my estate there is a post-office established, and the postman who calls for the letters is a postman from the Surrey side (from East Sheen), not from Hammersmith. It is rather an inconvenience to us, inasmuch as Hammersmith is close to us, whereas our letters are taken to Sheen, which is some way off, and causes delay.

1614. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do you think the bridge makes a difference in that respect?—It is not on account of the toll that the inconvenience arises, but on account of the regulations of the General Post-office; of course I do not know the reasons of their regulations.

1615. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] You, having to send letters to London, would wish to send them more frequently to Hammersmith than you do now?—Yes; the Post-office would of course receive letters at Hammersmith, and if we wish to send letters to Hammersmith the halfpenny is a small consideration; but it would be a great convenience to us if the General Post-office would allow our letters to be dispatched to and from Hammersmith in the regular course of delivery.

1616. *Chairman.*] Do the Post-office send your letters by railway?—They send them to Sheen; and I believe they are still carried by a horse-boy, or in a cart.

143

Major C. L. Boileau.

29 June 1854.

1617. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Is the bridge in a good state of repair?—Perfectly so.

1618. What does it cost you to keep it up?—Altogether, with the roads, 1,500 *l.* a year.

1619. Have you a return of the whole of the income of the trusts since the commencement?—I have.

1620. Will you hand it in?—

[*The same was handed in, and is as follows:*]

HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE.

The Scheme was projected in 1824. Bridge built and opened to the Public, 7th October 1827. Capital subscribed, 80,000 *l.*, in 1,600 shares at 50 *l.* each.

		DIVIDENDS.	BRIDGE REPAIRS.	
		s.	£. *s.* *d.*	
Dividends: 1st	1828	15 per share	—	
2d	1829	30 „	112 11 1	
3d	1830	30 „	235 17 –	
4th	1831	20 „	30 2 8	
	1832	– – –	113 13 2	
	1833	– – –	232 14 2	
	1834	– – –	37 2 4	
5th	1835	10 per share	92 5 1	
6th	1836	10 „	62 15 2	
7th	1837	20 „	131 7 1	
8th	1838	20 „	363 19 4	
9th	1839	20 „	180 10 9	
10th	1840	20 „	79 18 9	
11th	1841	20 „	308 10 1	
12th	1842	25 „	94 5 3	
13th	1843	20 „	1,913 13 9	
14th	1844	20 „	1,803 18 4	
15th	1845	20 „	1,138 9 8	
16th	1846	20 „	282 15 8	
17th	1847	10 „	35 16 –	
18th	1848	20 „	26 10 2	
19th	1849	15 „	712 2 5	
20th	1850	20 „	401 2 1	
21st	1851	20 „	47 1 5	
22d	1852	25 „	47 14 7	
23rd	1853	25 „	75 1 10	
24th	1854	28 „	114 16 7	
		£.	8,674 14 5	Average 321 *l.* per annum.

1621. *Chairman.*] Supposing that a proposition were made to the proprietors to sell the bridge, do you think that the present market price of 28 *l.* a share would be a reasonable offer to make?—No; because the tolls are yearly increasing.

Mr. *Evan Hare*, called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *Evan Hare.*

1622. *Chairman.*] HAVE you any further information to give to the Committee?—Yes. When I attended here last Thursday, I was requested on this occasion to bring the opinion of the inhabitants of Putney as to the coal tax, or the paying a county rate; and I hold in my hand the resolution passed at a general meeting specially called, and held in the vestry-room, on the 28th of June 1854.

1623. Will you read it?—"It was proposed by Mr. Reed and seconded by Mr. William Aviss, that this meeting considers a county rate preferable in lieu of a coal tax, which would be objectionable, unless a portion of the coal tax already leviable and received by the Corporation of London be applied towards the redemption of Putney Bridge tolls, as well as the tolls of the other metropolitan bridges."

Vide Appendix, No. 9.

1624. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] They think the county rate better than the coal tax?

Mr. *Evan Hare.*

29 June 1854.

tax?—They think that the county rate would be less objectionable than the coal tax, unless the 100,000 *l.* a year which the City of London already receive should be in part applied towards the redemption of those tolls. That was the feeling of the inhabitants expressed at the meeting.

1625. Mr. Alderman *Cubitt.*] That is to say, they would prefer a general rating to a special coal tax?—Yes; unless it should be so arranged that the City of London would apply part of the funds which they have received from the coal tax towards that object.

1626. If the resolution had been put in this way: that the coal tax as now leviable be continued, and made applicable to the bridges, what do you think would have been the feeling of the meeting?—I do not know; but I think that the feeling of the inhabitants would be favourable to an extension of the coal tax for two or three years.

1627. *Chairman.*] Have you any further papers to put in?—The secretary of the bridge is here to give information as to the statistics of the bridge; the cost of Putney Bridge is stated in the petition at 27,000 *l.*

1628. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Can you give any information as to the probable price that would be asked for it?—I think the market-price would be something like 70,000 *l.*; that would be 30 years' purchase upon about 2,000 *l.* a year, which is the net income. The bridge was built under two Acts of Parliament; one was passed in the last year of the reign of George the Second, and the other in the first of George the Third; they were two private Acts.

Mr. *Henry Chase*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *H. Chase.*

1629. *Chairman.*] WILL you be so good as to give to the Committee your account of the cost of Putney Bridge?—About 30,000 *l.*; there were 30 shares of 1,000 *l.* each.

1630. Have you any document containing a return of the income of the bridge?—I hold in my hand returns of the gross and net receipts up to the year 1850, and I believe very little variance has taken place since.

1631. Will you hand them in?—

[*The same were handed in, and are as follow:*]

Account, No. 1.

SHOWING the GROSS RECEIPTS of *Putney* and *Fulham* BRIDGE for Seven Years, from Lady-day 1844 to Christmas-day 1850, inclusively.

	£.	s.	d.
From Lady-day 1844 to Christmas 1844, inclusively - - - - -	3,672	17	4
From Lady-day 1845 to Christmas 1845, inclusively - - - - -	3,827	9	6
From Lady-day 1846 to Christmas 1846, inclusively - - - - -	3,873	11	1
From Lady-day 1847 to Christmas 1847, inclusively - - - - -	3,421	3	-
From Lady-day 1848 to Christmas 1848, inclusively - - - - -	3,272	6	4
From Lady-day 1849 to Christmas 1849, inclusively - - - - -	3,447	14	6
From Lady-day 1850 to Christmas 1850, inclusively - - - - -	3,285	16	5
TOTAL - - - £.	24,800	18	2
Annual Average Gross Receipts for Seven Years - - - £.	3,542	19	9

Which, at 20 years' purchase, would produce 70,859 *l.* 15 *s.*, or 2,361 *l.* 19 *s.* 10 *d.* per share.

145

Mr. *H. Chase.*

29 June 1854.

Account, No. 2.

SHOWING the NET RECEIPTS of *Putney* and *Fulham* BRIDGE for Seven Years, from Lady-day 1844 to Christmas 1850, inclusively.

	£.	s.	d.
From Lady-day 1844 to Christmas 1844, inclusively	2,638	–	10
From Lady-day 1845 to Christmas 1845, inclusively	2,503	17	5
From Lady-day 1846 to Christmas 1846, inclusively	2,667	16	8
From Lady-day 1847 to Christmas 1847, inclusively	1,129	17	3
From Lady-day 1848 to Christmas 1848, inclusively	1,826	3	2
From Lady-day 1849 to Christmas 1849, inclusively	1,068	13	5
From Lady-day 1850 to Christmas 1850, inclusively	1,985	–	10
£.	13,819	9	7
Law expenses paid during the five years ending Christmas 1850 of an extraordinary and unusual nature, and not forming part of the usual working expenditure	1,001	3	2
£.	14,820	12	9
Annual Average of Net Receipts for the last Seven Years - £.	2,117	4	8

Which, at 33 years' purchase, would be 69,868 *l.* 14 *s.*, or 2,329 *l.* 19 *s.* 2 *d.* (within a fraction) per share.

1632. Mr. *Jackson.*] What was the last dividend paid by the bridge?—It has averaged for the last three or four years somewhere about 64 *l.* or 65 *l.* a share.

1633. Upon the 1,000 *l.* shares?—Yes.

1634. *Chairman.*] What was the last price for which one of those shares was sold?—Somewhere about 2,000 *l.* In the Return I have handed in, I have taken the average of the cost and repairs at about 400 *l.* a year, and the rates and taxes somewhere about 560 *l.* a year, and the working expenses about 400 *l.* a year, including the salary of the clerk and chief clerk. In fact, the rates and taxes for both parishes during this half-year have been 36 *l.*

1635. What is the condition of the bridge?—The flooring is in a most excellent state of repair; we every year have an inspection as to the general state of the repair.

1636. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] Have not great complaints been made with regard to Putney Bridge, as interfering with the navigation of the river?—It is not so much the bridge as it is the foundation of the river which interferes with the navigation; the bed of the river is almost dry, and the upper part is worse than we are. I was born almost at the bridge, and I have been there 50 odd years, and during all those years I never saw the tide so exceedingly low as it is now; so much so, that there is some talk of having a lock somewhere near this spot.

1637. My question had no reference to the tide, but it referred to the construction of the bridge, and the number of arches it has above water; has not that been frequently complained of?—It has.

1638. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Has the alteration of the bed of the river affected the foundation of Putney Bridge?—In some measure it has, but in those places we throw in new stuff; when we drive in piles, if we find that there is any place where the gravel has been washed away, we remedy it, but the shallow part of the river is more below the bridge, so that it is difficult for steam-boats to go up.

1639. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] What do you throw into the river?—Gravel, and other materials.

1640. You throw that gravel in to hold the piles?—The piles are, generally speaking, sunk eight or ten feet in the ground, besides being well placed.

1641. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] And they hold upon the gravel?—Yes; entirely of old gravel.

Mr. *H. Chase.*
29 June 1854.

gravel. We had a Government inspector some years ago, when some person made a complaint of it; he went down at the time we were making repairs, and he was perfectly satisfied.

Mr. *Charles Edward Gemmet*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *C. E. Gemmet.*

1642. *Chairman.*] DO you produce the Acts of Parliament for building Kingston Bridge?—I do; one was passed in the 6th of George the 4th, and the other in the 11th year of George the 4th.

1643. Will you hand them in?—[*The same were handed in.*]

1644. The mayor of Kingston has given evidence upon the condition of the bridge. Have you any special thing to add to his evidence?—I have nothing special to add, except as far as regards the Act or matters connected with it.

1645. Have you any accounts that you can put in?—I have the yearly account from 1st of September 1852 to the 1st of September 1853.

Vide Appendix, No. 8.

1646. Will you hand it in?—[*The same was handed in.*]

1647. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Do you know anything about the feeling of the inhabitants of Kingston as to the desirableness of freeing the bridge?—I attended a public meeting, at which they seemed very anxious to get rid of the toll.

1648. They were not particular as to what sort of tax it was by means of which this was done?—It was about two months since; they did not go into that part of the question.

1649. Of course they would like to have the bridge free, but were they willing to submit to the necessary impost?—Nothing was said upon that occasion. As regards Kingston Bridge, we borrowed the money of the Exchequer Loan Commissioners, and the Commissioners of Woods and Forests are our security for the repayment of it, so that we thought that it would be a very easy matter for them to take power to wipe off the debt.

Edward Tyrrell, Esq., was called in; and Examined.

E. Tyrrell, Esq.

1650. Mr. *Jackson.*] HAVE you heard the evidence given before this Committee?—Nearly all of it.

1651. You have heard the general opinion expressed by parties from the country and the metropolis as to the advantage of throwing open the bridges, and the willingness on the part of owners of property to submit to a general rate for the purpose of freeing all the bridges?—Yes.

1652. Do you think the City of London would concur with them in being ready to share that responsibility of freeing the bridges by a tax, whether a coal tax, or an annual tax?—That is a point upon which I can only give an individual opinion. I am not prepared to speak on behalf of the corporation, because I have not consulted them upon it; they would probably feel it hard that there should be a general rate upon the inhabitants of the City of London, because they have contributed themselves mainly to two of the large bridges across the Thames; I speak of London and Blackfriars, and they consider themselves liable to keep them in repair; therefore, they would probably consider it hardly fair that they should be included in any general system of taxation. My own opinion is, that if it was proposed to be done by a continuation of the coal tax, they would not object to pay their share with the other parties within the district of 20 miles round St. Paul's.

1653. You would not think it unreasonable that the whole of the metropolis should pay their share of the taxation, provided they pay a coal tax over the same area as it is now laid upon?—I should think it not unreasonable.

1654. Upon the whole, you are of opinion that a tax within an area of 20 miles round London, particularly the coal tax, if continued, would be a fair source from which the money for the purpose of freeing the bridges should be obtained?—I should say that that would be a fair tax.

1655. Are you of opinion that it would be an advantage to the whole community that a tax should be laid upon that area?—I should think so.

1656. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] How much money spent for Blackfriars Bridge has been raised exclusively upon the inhabitants of the City of London?—I cannot give you the amount.

1657. Can you give me the sources from which it has been raised?—The money

E. Tyrrell, Esq.

29 June 1854.

money raised to redeem the toll was raised upon the coal tax, and the money raised for the large repair which took place some few years ago was raised upon the Bridge House property, held by the Corporation of London.

1658. To what purposes have the Corporation the power to apply the proceeds of that property?—The property is charged for London Bridge; and has been applied by the Corporation of London for that purpose, and also for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge.

1659. Have you, in the course of this inquiry, given a statement of the origin of the Bridge House property?—I think Mr. Brand, who is the comptroller of the Bridge House Estates, was examined upon that point.

1660. Can you state whether the Bridge House property contains any other property besides what would be required in building bridges and making approaches to them?—As far as I am in possession of the facts, the property was either given or bequeathed by parties for keeping up old London Bridge.

1661. Then the property that was not the proceeds of the Bridge House toll can scarcely be said to be money levied exclusively upon the property in the City of London?—With regard to some part of the property, there appears to be no specific trust assigned; but it has always been applied to the repair of London Bridge.

1662. Have you the means from your office of giving to the Committee an approximate estimate of the amount required to purchase the tolls upon the whole of the bridges to which this inquiry has extended, or, if not, upon any portion of them?—We have no further means of information than the information which has been laid before the Committee in evidence.

1663. Will you have the kindness to obtain such an estimate for the Committee?—I will endeavour to do so.

1664. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] Your opinion is, that the great bulk of the so called inhabitants of the City of London generally live in the district within 20 miles round, and therefore use the bridges in crossing the Thames in that district?—Yes; since the establishment of railroads a vast number of persons, who use the City of London, and other parts of the metropolis, reside at a distance of from 10 to 20 miles, and come into town every day; which has always appeared to me one of the great reasons of the propriety of a circle of 20 miles radius round the City of London. The streets of London are quite large enough for the inhabitants themselves, but it is the vast concourse of people who come in from distant parts in the morning, and go back in the evening, and who come into the City in other parts of the day, which render the large improvements which have been made in the metropolis necessary.

1665. That consideration, therefore, renders the justice of a tax over that district plain?—Yes.

1666. Mr. *Jackson.*] Can you give the Committee an approximate estimate of what the Bridge House Estate would sell for, supposing that to be the fund, or to form part of the fund, from which the purchase money is to come?—I do not think the Corporation of London would be disposed to make a calculation of that sort, because it might be an admission that they were disposed to allow them to form part of the fund.

1667. It is applicable to no other purpose than the maintenance of the bridges?—London and Blackfriars Bridge.

1668. The Corporation consider it part of their revenue?—A statement of the proceeds of, and the charges upon it, has been given to the Committee.

George Roundell Burnell, Esq., called in; and Examined.

G. R. Burnell, Esq.

1669. *Chairman.*] WERE you present when Mr. Tite was examined before this Committee?—I was.

1670. You remember, too, that he said that you could give us information with reference to the bed of the river which might be useful in this inquiry?—When Mr. Walker's Report was first presented to the Bridge House Estate, I took occasion to present a memorial to the Bridge House Committee, to call their attention to what appeared to me the necessity for fixing the bed of the river, so as to preserve the existing structures, both those over the river and those on the wharfs on either side. The Committee must be aware that subsequently to the

G. R. Burnell, Esq.

29 June 1854.

demolition of old London Bridge a very remarkable change has been effected in the *régime* of the river itself.

1671. When you say the "*régime*," what do you mean?—The conditions of flow. It is a sort of engineering phrase to imply all the conditions of flow which affect the river itself.

1672. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] You mean the daily action of the flux and reflux of the current?—Not only of the flux and reflux of the tide, but also the action of the land waters. It includes the action and reaction of the stream, whether of tidal or of land water, upon the bed and upon the banks; in fact, all the conditions of flow.

1673. In fact, the natural history of the river?—Precisely so.

1674. Will you give the Committee some information on that point?—I think that I should do so in the most satisfactory manner by reading some extracts from the note I presented to the Bridge House Committee. "'Since the year 1832,' to quote the words of Messrs. Walker & Burgess's Report, 'the bed of the river has been lowered (near Blackfriars Bridge) six feet;' and it must be evident to any one who examines the state of the river between that point and Teddington Lock that the same effect has been produced in a proportionate degree throughout the entire distance. It is singular, too, that about the year 1842 the river appeared to have assumed a degree of fixity, so to speak, in the nature of its flow, and of its action upon the bed. The erosion of the latter has lately been resumed, subsequently to the commencement of the works for the Thames Embankment, then first systematically carried into effect under the direction of Mr. Walker. The duration of the flood tide, and the height of the mean range between high and low water, have also been increased, and these effects may be distinctly traced to affect the river at points considerably above and below Old London Bridge. Thus it appears that between the years 1832 and 1845, the range of the tides at the London Docks had increased about 1 foot 6 inches; at Putney, it had increased about 2 feet 3 inches; whilst at Teddington Lock, it had increased 1 foot 4 inches nearly. The velocity of the currents of both the flood and the ebb tides has also visibly increased; but no accurate observations have been made for the purpose of ascertaining the precise extent of the change. The nature of the materials composing the bed of the river may, to a certain extent, enable us to form an opinion on this subject; but the deductions to be drawn from them are necessarily exposed to be modified by the interference with their deposition produced by the incessant wash of the steamers. It must, however, be in the memory of every member of your worshipful Committee, that even so late as 1840, the materials forming the bed of the river, laid bare between tides in the portion of its course extending from Southwark Bridge to Chelsea, consisted of semi-fluid mud of great depth. Now at the lowest point above cited, they consist of what is technically called ballast, or small gravel, unless in positions removed from the direct action of the tides. This change is most apparent in the portion of the bed exposed at half tides; but we are warranted in assuming that the velocities of the ebb and flood currents must be increased throughout their whole duration. The effects produced by these changes in the state of the river are sufficient to account for the alterations in its bed which have given rise to the settlements of Blackfriars Bridge; and all engineers are agreed that it is to the increased scour of the stream that the removal of the bed is to be attributed. But it is precisely from the fact that this increased scour (produced by the enlargement of the waterway at London Bridge, and the concentration of the lower ebb tide by the embankment) has already so seriously modified the state of the whole river, that not only Blackfriars and Westminster, but London Bridge itself, are menaced with destruction, that it appears to me to be advisable to fix the tidal action within its present range, rather than to increase it by still further increasing the waterway during the most powerful period of the tide, according to the project presented by Messrs. Walker and Burgess. If Blackfriars Bridge sink because the clay bed of the river between the piers is carried away, and therefore ceases to resist any tendency to lateral displacement by the piers, and if this clay be removed by the increased scour above described, evidently every new facility which is offered to the transmission of the tidal wave must increase the scour still further; and one after another, the foundations of all the bridges on the river will be affected."

1675. Will

1675. Will you tell the Committee what your recommendations are?—Simply to fix the bed of the river by putting a dam across it at a level which should be subsequently determined upon, so as to prevent the level being afterwards lowered.

1676. Will you state the manner in which you propose to carry that suggestion out?—The recommendation I made was to the effect that a floor should be made between the arches of the bridge, and it was proposed to be executed by forming coffer-dams on the up and down sides of the bridge, in the manner indicated upon the accompanying sketches; the coffer-dams would be respectively 35 feet from the face of the bridge on the up, and 50 feet on the down side; they would be formed of close piling, with wales at the level of the bed of the river; the space between the outer and the inner rows up to that level would be dredged to a depth of 20 feet, and the interval filled in with good hydraulic concrete; the upper portion of the coffer-dam would be filled in with clay puddle in the usual manner, and to the height indicated; the coffer-dams would be formed in detached portions between each pair of piers, excepting in cases of the arches left dry at low water; return ends would be carried across, as shown in the plan, to connect the up and down retaining walls, and to allow the floor to be executed in small portions at a time. When the water should have been pumped out from the interior of the coffer-dam, the whole surface of the ground should be excavated, to allow the insertion of a bed of concrete three feet thick, to be dressed off to levels to be given hereafter; the arches should be well shored up where requisite, and the foundations of the piers carefully underpinned to as great a distance from the face as possible with fire bricks set in Portland cement, this underpinning to descend about one foot below the concrete floor; a number of holes shall then be bored through the body of the pier, and the voids between the old foundations of the caissons and the existing ground filled in with grouting; when this grouting, and the concrete floor should have set, the coffer-dams should be removed by cutting off any piles or wood work above the water, at the level of the existing bed of the river, in such a manner as to leave the piles to act as guards to the retaining wall of concrete formed at the bottom of the dam. The arches should be repaired six months after the piers, so as to obviate any danger from the compression of the grouting under the latter.

1677. Your report had reference to Blackfriars Bridge?—Simply to Blackfriars Bridge; that being the subject which was then before the Bridge House Committee.

1678. Mr. *Pellatt.*] What would be the action of this dam?—It would fix the bed of the river, so as to prevent the water line being lowered.

1679. Mr. *Jackson.*] Do not you think it good for the navigation, that the water line should be lower than it is at present?—It is a question as to expense.

1680. Do not you think it advisable that the bed of the river should always be as low as possible?—Unquestionably.

1681. It is a question as to whether it would be better to preserve the bridges or diminish the navigation?—I should propose rather to keep the navigation in its present state.

1682. How would you do that by this coffer-dam?—By retaining the bed in its present state.

1683. Do you apprehend that the whole of those bridges now carried across the Thames are in danger?—I should be very much disposed to apprehend that that would be the case if you were to increase the flow of the tidal stream by pulling down the existing bridges, and increasing the flow of water which can go up; for instance, it is proposed at Blackfriars Bridge to pull down the present structure and to replace it by a bridge which will have a larger water-way than now exists; some fewer arches necessarily imply a larger water-way, and therefore the tide will, of course, send a larger quantity of water up the river.

1684. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] And it would therefore send a larger quantity down?—The same rule would of course apply; the scouring power will be increased. London Bridge is also rather affected at the centre; they are obliged to watch it, and occasionally to throw down ballast at the foot of the piles.

1685. Mr. *Pellatt.*] If three new bridges were erected, would not each of them serve as a dam to a certain extent, and provide for the loss of the large number of arches at Blackfriars?—That depends upon whether they were built either

G. R. Burnell, Esq.
29 June 1854.

above or below the point which now forms the regulator, as it were, of the flow of the river. If three new bridges were built above Blackfriars Bridge they would not affect to any serious extent the bed of the river.

1686. But supposing one to be built below London Bridge, and two others above, one at St. Paul's, and one at Charing Cross, how would they operate on the tides?—I imagine that the bridge at Paul's Chain would not operate to any great extent, unless you carried something across the bed of the river to prevent its being affected.

1687. Mr. *Wilkinson.*] That was why you proposed to make the coffer-dam?—Precisely so; the bed being fixed to any point that might be thought desirable.

1688. Mr. *Pellatt.*] Do not you consider that some inconvenience will arise from the fall which will be caused by this dam?—I do not conceive that that would take place; in the first place, in consequence of the dam being wider than the bridge, the stream, after it had gone past the cutwaters, would be able to get back into its normal state; the fall through the arches altogether arises from the interference with the water-way.

1689. Upon your principle of preserving the foundations of the bridges, the navigation of the river would not, according to your view, be affected?—No, I conceive not; there would be no such fall as to affect the navigation.

1690. Lord *R. Grosvenor.*] You have given some considerable attention to this subject?—I have, and what I have stated is the result of my investigations.

Jovis, 6° die Julii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Oliveira.	Mr. Alderman Cubitt.
Mr. Pellatt.	Mr. Alderman Challis.
Mr. Blackett.	Mr. Jackson.
Sir John Shelley.	Lord Alfred Hervey.

BENJAMIN OLIVEIRA, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Stephen Seaward Tayler,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. S. S. Tayler.
6 July 1854.

1691. *Chairman.*] WHAT is the state and condition of Battersea Bridge?—Its state of repair is very good.

1692. Is it not a very ancient structure?—It is now in its 83d year.

1693. Under what Act of Parliament was it built?—I have the Act here (*producing the same*).

1694. What is the date of it?—1766.

1695. What was the cost of the bridge?—I am not prepared to say what the cost was.

1696. Was the Act granted to any individual or individuals?—I am not prepared to answer that question; perhaps the solicitor of the bridge, who is present, may be better able to answer that question.

1697. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What information are you capable of giving about any of the matters upon which we desire information?—The notice which was served upon me did not mention specifically what the objects of the Committee were; but upon the general financial condition of the bridge I could give you any information you might require. The solicitor is better acquainted with the legal title of the bridge, and matters of that kind.

1698. *Chairman.*] Is Battersea Bridge adequate to the present traffic?—I should say so decidedly, at present.

1699. Is the traffic increasing?—Upon the average, there is an annual increase.

1700. Do you think, considering the increasing traffic over the bridge, that for some years to come it may not be necessary to build any other bridge in the neighbourhood?—

neighbourhood?—Yes, I should say decidedly that it would be unnecessary at present, and for some time to come. Mr. *S. S. Tayler.* 6 July 1854.

1701. Mr. *Blackett.*] There is another bridge in that neighbourhood?—Yes, one building, rather more than a mile distant.

1702. *Chairman.*] Has any opinion been expressed by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood as to the desirableness of throwing it open free?—I cannot say that I am aware of any.

1703. No meeting has been held?—Not in the immediate neighbourhood of Battersea

1704. And no petition sent to this House?—Not from the people living in the neighbourhood of the bridge.

1705. What is the nature of the securities belonging to the bridge, are they bonds or shares?—I think I must refer that question to the solicitor; I presume that the question refers to the mode of proprietorship.

1706. Will you favour the Committee with any information that you have concerning the bridge, that you think important for the purposes of this inquiry?—I am prepared to speak with regard to the annual income.

1707. Have you a copy of the report made to the proprietors?—The bridge being under private management, there is no formal report made. I might mention that the tolls have averaged between 6,000 *l.* and 6,200 *l.* during the last four years.

1708. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Annually?—Annually.

1709. *Chairman.*] You cannot acquaint the Committee with the original cost of the bridge?—No, I cannot. The fact is, that a very few years after the bridge was built it sustained a great deal of injury, and a large sum of money was laid out upon it, so that the cost was greatly enhanced.

1710. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Is that 6,000 *l.* the net receipts?—No, it is the amount of the tolls.

1711. What do the expenses amount to?—They average about 700 *l.* or 800 *l.* a year. But, besides the tolls, there is landed and other property connected with the bridge, and there is also funded property, which produce income, independent of the amount which I have named.

1712. Will you be so good as to furnish the Committee with a statement of the property and income of the bridge, distinguishing the various items of which it is composed?—I will. *Vide* Appendix, No. 12.

Mr. *Frederick Halsey Janson,* called in; and Examined.

1713. *Chairman.*] YOU are the Solicitor to Battersea Bridge?—I am. Mr. *F. H. Janson.*

1714. Will you be so good as to favour the Committee with the original cost, the income and expenditure of the bridge, so far as you are acquainted with them?—I have no direct information whatever upon any one of those points.

1715. Have you any document which would show what the cost of the bridge has been?—No, nor do I believe that my predecessors, since the time the bridge was built, have ever had those particulars.

1716. How is the income of the bridge divided?—That is entirely managed by the proprietors and their treasurer; we are not consulted upon the finance.

1717. Who is the treasurer?—Mr. Henry Tritton, of Lombard-street, of the house of Messrs. Barclay, Bevan and Company.

1718. Have you any knowledge of the per-centage that the income bears to the capital?—No, nor, as I apprehend, has there been any valuation of the capital since the commencement of the undertaking.

1719. The last witness told us that the gross revenue is 6,200 *l.* a year; how is that 6,200 *l.* a year disposed of?—After payment of the expenses, it is divided among the proprietors, and I have heard generally, that they divide between 400 *l.* and 500 *l.* a share.

1720. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What is the number of proprietors?—Thirteen; and in reference to that, I may explain that it was divided into 15 shares under the original constitution, but that in or before the year 1796 two of those shares were bought up for the benefit of the proprietors, so reducing the actual number to 13.

1721. *Chairman.*] Is there any estimate of the amount of capital that those 13 shares represent?—I apprehend, none whatever.

1722. In the event of any one of those shares being disposed of, are they not valued?—

Mr. *F. H. Janson.*

6 July 1854.

valued?—They are real estate, and therefore have not been valued for probate and legacy duty.

1723. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Do you know what the cost of those two shares that were bought up in 1796 was?—I do not know, but possibly I could ascertain that; the bridge was constructed very much upon the purchase of the ferry, and some adjacent land; there was a certain sum contributed for the expense of the bridge at the time, the amount of which I do not know, and from that time to this it has been a partnership concern, consisting of real property (and divided first into 15, and since 1796, into 13 shares); and the net receipts are divided in 13 parts.

1724. It was built under an Act of Parliament?—Yes.

1725. In the Act, was not there granted a right to raise a certain sum to make a bridge?—No. It was set on foot, in a great measure, by Lord Spencer, and the present proprietors bought it of him; he was the owner of the ferry, which was the foundation of the bridge.

1726. What is the date of that Act of Parliament?—1766.

1727. Do not the proprietors claim rights under that Act of Parliament, which Lord Spencer could not have had without an Act?—The Act of Parliament is seldom referred to in our proceedings; it was, I think, merely an Act enabling him to take land for certain purposes; our deed of constitution is of the date of 1771; five years later than the Act.

1728. *Chairman.*] Do those 13 shares, any of them, ever change hands?—They do occasionally.

1729. Can you give the Committee any information as to their value when they changed?—The last change or sale was about ten years ago; the price then given was, I believe, 6,500*l.*

1730. For one share?—For one share; I think that was the amount, but have not the conveyance to refer to.

1731. Sir *J. Shelley.*] What do the shares stand at?—There is no nominal or market value for the shares.

1732. What is said to be the amount of the shares?—There is no specified amount; it is a thirteenth share of Battersea Bridge.

1733. How did the shares arise in the first instance?—The property was purchased, and certain contributions were made.

1734. By whom was the purchase made?—By the 15 original proprietors.

1735. What was the amount that each of them subscribed?—Those particulars I have not; it does not appear upon any document or paper in my hands as solicitor; it might possibly be deduced from the accounts; but from what I have heard in conversation, I think it would be very difficult to get at.

1736. When did the sale of this share, which was sold at 6,500 *l.*, take place?—I think it was in 1844; that is the last sale.

1737. Was this a regular sale, properly carried out; were the shares transferred from one individual to another?—Exactly so; it was sold by auction, I think.

1738. If sold by auction, there must have been some deeds produced, to show the real interest that the purchaser had in the bridge?—Yes, and that has been furnished frequently, and only lately to Government, for the purchase of some land held in connexion with the bridge. The proprietors have purchased from time to time tracts of land adjoining the bridge, subservient to the purposes of the bridge.

1739. You have stated that there were originally 15 proprietors, and that that number has been reduced to 13?—Yes; two having been purchased up by the remaining proprietors, and thus reduced the number.

1740. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] With regard to this share that was sold for 6,500 *l.*, you have stated that the property does not entirely consist of the bridge. There is funded property and landed property?—Yes.

1741. The 6,500*l.* includes a share in all the property of the bridge?—Undoubtedly.

1742. How much of the property in the shares is represented by land, and how much by the bridge?—For that I must refer you to the managing proprietor; he has those particulars.

1743. You have the deeds; it would of course be mentioned there?—It would; but I have not got it upon paper.

1744. Can

Mr. *F. H. Janson.*

6 July 1854.

1744. Can you give the Committee a short abstract of these facts?—Yes, I can do so.

1745. What is the toll?—Upon that I must refer you to the managing proprietor or the check clerk.

1746. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Do you make no report to the shareholders?—No. There are two meetings in the year, at which each proprietor of a whole share is summoned. Under the deed of constitution only the proprietors of whole shares are competent to attend and vote, and generally speaking three or four proprietors attend, by whom the business is transacted.

1747. Is there any debtor and creditor account laid before the meeting for them to vote upon?—I believe the treasurer brings the statement which is submitted to the meeting; but I am not present at the meetings.

1748. Does no one appear at the meetings as solicitor?—Certainly, if there happens to be any law business; but it is taken after the rest is disposed of.

1749. Are the accounts audited by any paid auditor?—I do not know their course of proceeding at all. I have only a general knowledge of the proceedings. But the managing proprietor could inform you entirely upon these points.

1750. As between the public, that is, the toll-payers and the toll-receivers, there is no one apparently who keeps any account whatever?—No; it is a private partnership concern, with a very limited number of partners.

1751. Is there any one present who can furnish the Committee with any abstract of the accounts?—I think that Mr. Tayler will be able to give you all the leading points of the accounts. I was called to speak merely to the legal position of the bridge. Perhaps I might be allowed to say, as regards the price mentioned in the last sale of shares, that the tolls have been progressing annually, so that we should not consider that at all a measure of their present value.

1752. Are you free to ask any amount of toll that may be thought prudent?—No; there was a fixed scale of toll.

1753. The amount of the shares will depend upon the amount received from the tolls; can you tell the Committee whether there is, by Act of Parliament, any schedule of charges beyond which this company cannot go?—The rate of toll is confined by the Act to a certain scale, which cannot be exceeded. The increase that I speak of has arisen from the increased traffic over the bridge, not from any increase in the rate of tolls.

1754. *Chairman.*] Do you reside in the neighbourhood of the bridge?—No.

1755. Do you know whether any opinion has been expressed by the inhabitants as to the desirableness of throwing it open?—I never heard of any.

1756. Are the powers of the Act still in force?—Yes; I believe so.

1757. Are there any conditions in the Act about re-entrance or purchase on the part of the Crown?—There is nothing of the sort, as far as I remember. It is merely an Act to enable Lord Spencer to do certain things.

1758. There is no clause with reference to purchase for the benefit of the public?—Nothing of the sort, I feel certain.

1759. Mr. *Jackson.*] Are the shares by the Act of Parliament transferable by deed?—They are not transferable by the Act at all.

1760. Is there any method by which the shares can be passed from one person to another?—It requires a conveyance as of real estate.

1761. Is there any register kept of the conveyances so executed?—Yes.

1762. By you?—Yes, and I send the particulars to the treasurer; the marginal note of the first clause of the Act is, "Earl Spencer empowered to build a bridge over the Thames from Battersea to Chelsea, and to turn and make any highway or way leading to the same, making satisfaction," and that is the sum and substance of the Act.

1763. Sir *J. Shelley.*] Does the present Lord Spencer represent the grantee of those powers?—No; as far back as 1771 Lord Spencer conveyed the property to the 15 proprietors. He retained one share, which was sold many years since, but two have come to his family by devise from another proprietor, the late Mr. Poyntz. I see that the 13th clause of the Act contains a schedule of the tolls, with an express power by the 15th section, to lower them.

1764. Can you furnish the Committee with a copy of the Act under which this bridge was built?—I can (*producing the same*).

1765. Will you hand it in?—(*The same was delivered in.*)

Mr. *Robert Baalham*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *R. Baalham.*

6 July 1854.

1766. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your appointment in connexion with Battersea Bridge?—I am resident Superintendent and Cheque Clerk.

1767. Will you be good enough to acquaint the Committee with all the information that you have with reference to its financial condition?—I have made an abstract of the returns of the tolls for the last three years; taking the average of three years the present income is 6,105*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*

1768. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Will you state the income of each year, distinguishing how much has been taken in toll from the bridge, and how much from interest of money, or any other source?—The sum I have stated is altogether derived from tolls; I have no information respecting the private property of the bridge.

1769. Will you deduct the expenses of each year?—The amount of the receipts for 1851, is 6,099*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*; 1852, 6,144*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*; 1853, 6,071*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*; making an average of 6,105*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* The annual expenses, including the management, toll-keepers, keeping the bridge in repair, lighting, &c., are about 750*l.*, as near as I can estimate them. The reduction on the amount in 1853 was caused by the closing of Battersea Fields as a place of public amusement.

1770. You do not know what is the value of the property belonging to the bridge?—It does not come within my province; I do not even collect the ground rents. There is property on both sides of the bridge; the house where I reside is a freehold belonging to the bridge, and there is a piece of ground which we use for the purpose of the repairs.

1771. Can you give the Committee any information which will enable them to judge how much of the price of the share that was sold belonged to the landed and other property of the bridge proprietors?—At the period when that share was sold, the returns of the bridge were considerably under 5,000*l.*; I am speaking now of the actual return of the tolls in the year in which that share was sold, because there was a considerable difference between that time and the present. Tolls have increased upwards of 1,500*l.* a year since that period; 4,527*l.* was the return at that time; that was 1,578*l.* less than the income of last year.

1772. When was that?—It was on the 28th of November 1843.

1773. Mr. *Jackson.*] Can you give the Committee any description of the property at that date?—I cannot; perhaps our managing proprietor would be able to do so.

1774. Can you inform us of the amount of income derivable from other sources at that period and at this period?—When the notice was served upon me, I was not informed of the object of this inquiry, and I am not therefore prepared with full information.

1775. Will you furnish the Committee, before their next meeting, with a statement of the income of the bridge in the year when this share was sold, separating the income derived from the bridge from that derived from the other property; and also a statement of the income of the last year?—For the private income I must refer the Committee to the managing proprietor; the rest shall be produced. There were one or two questions which were put to other gentlemen which I can answer better than they; for example, about the present stability of the bridge, and its capabilities of traffic.

1776. What is your opinion as to the stability of the bridge?—I believe that it is in a better condition than it has ever been; and as to its present construction, I have no hesitation in saying that it will last longer than any other bridge over the Thames, because we annually put in somewhere about 15 or 20 loads of timber. I am employed by the bridge proprietors to do this; and whatever is necessary to be taken out, is taken out and replaced; consequently it is almost new. It is not one of those bridges likely to suffer from the unfortunate disposition of the bed of the river, and therefore its foundation is perfectly secure. As to its capabilities for traffic, I should say that we could take twice the amount of traffic if required without inconvenience.

1777. *Chairman.*] Has any opinion been expressed by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, as to their desire that the bridge should be thrown open?—I should say there has. I have been told that petitions have been got up on both sides

sides of the river, in order to throw it open; and from that I should judge that there is a desire among the people that it should be thrown open. Mr. R. Baatham.

1778. The proprietors of the property on each side of the bridge think it is to their advantage that the bridge should be thrown open?—No doubt of it. 6 July 1854.

1779. Is that your opinion?—That is my opinion. I believe I have furnished you with all the particulars I can. I merely take the daily returns, and make them up weekly to Mr. Tayler. I am prepared to give a weekly return, and likewise a yearly return of the income of tolls.

Mr. *Henry Hewett Mason*, called in; and Examined.

1780. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE that you are very well acquainted with the condition and financial affairs of Kew Bridge?—I am. Mr. H. H. Mason.

1781. Will you be so good as to give the Committee the best information that you can?—The bridge is a stone bridge, and in perfect repair; in fact, the repairs have been very small. Three years ago we had occasion to repair the bridge, and since that we have had something to do to find an excuse for repairing the bridge at all. I have a statement of the gross receipts for several years past. I do not know how far the Committee would like to go back. In 1843 the gross receipts were 2,121 *l.*, omitting fractions.

1782. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Is that exclusive of the expenses?—That is the gross receipts. The outgoings for several years averaged about 210 *l.* a year, including the cost of collection.

1783. Mr. *Jackson.*] Can you give us the income for last year?—For 1853 the income was 2,750 *l.* 10 *s.*

1784. The outgoings were increased?—They were about 230 *l.*

1785. *Chairman.*] The bridge, I think, belongs to one single proprietor?—It does.

1786. Do you know what he paid for it?—The purchase-money was about 17,800 *l.*, but in consequence of some litigation it cost 20,700 *l.*; but I was told that there was at the time it was sold a panic among the proprietors. They tried to get out of the purchase afterwards, but they found that that would involve a lawsuit.

1787. Mr. *Jackson.*] Was the company constituted by Act of Parliament?—It was.

1788. The gentleman you have named is the sole proprietor?—He is the sole proprietor. It was an ancient ferry, and the bridge was substituted.

1789. Were the ferry rights abrogated?—The bridge stands in the place of the ferry.

1790. Is there any clause in the Act of Parliament which would enable the Government to buy the bridge?—None.

1791. *Chairman.*] Do you think the persons in the locality would desire to have the bridge made free?—There is no doubt.

1792. Would it improve the value of the property in the neighbourhood?—I have no doubt that it would.

1793. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] What is the rate of toll you charge?—I have a paper here containing a list of the tolls.

1794. Will you put in that paper?—I will furnish the Committee with a complete account of the scale of tolls.

1795. Mr. *Jackson.*] Are those the tolls prescribed by the Act?—They do not go to the limit that is allowed by the Act. I had a copy of the Act, which has been mislaid; but I know that we do not go to the limit allowed by the Act.

1796. *Chairman.*] Do you think that the people of Kew would object to a rate if the bridge were thrown open?—If it were a county rate perhaps they would not, but if it were a rate upon the neighbourhood only, I think they would.

1797. Mr. *Jackson.*] If a rate were laid upon the area of 20 miles round St. Paul's, for the purpose of throwing open all the bridges over the Thames within that area, would the people of Kew and the neighbourhood be willing to pay their share?—Yes.

1798. *Chairman.*] They have not presented a petition to this House upon the subject?—I have not heard of any.

1799. Have they had any meeting?—I have not heard of it.

1800. Mr. *Jackson.*] Have you any statement that you can put in?—I have

Mr. *H. H. Mason.* gone into some analysis of the traffic, and so forth, by which it appears that something like half a million of people cross it in the year.

6 July 1854. 1801. Do you know how many shares there were, and what was the value of each share raised under the Act of Parliament?—There was one proprietor who raised the shares of 16,000*l.* by tontine in three classes; two of which are expired, and it is now subject to a tontine annuity of 330*l.* a year; that is divided into 13 shares, four of which are vested in the proprietor.

1802. Out of this 2,250*l.* he has to pay 330*l.*?—Yes.

1803. What are the respective ages of the persons upon whose lives this annuity depends?—They are very old persons; a Mr. Robinson purchased in the year 1825, and the youngest life was then 41; that is 29 years ago; so that he is now 70.

1804. Mr. Alderman *Challis.*] Can you put in an account of the receipts and expenses for the last seven years?—With the single exception of the Exhibition year, which rather exceeded the general amount, there has been a progressive increase for several years past, from the time when Hammersmith Bridge was opened, at which time it fell.

1805. What has it been since that time?—In the year after the opening of Hammersmith Bridge they were only 1,703*l.*; that has increased nearly 1,000*l.* since that time.

The Rev. *Charles Woodward,* called in; and Examined.

Rev. *C. Woodward.* 1806. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At East Moulsey.

1807. You were kind enough to attend at the last meeting of the Committee to give evidence with respect to Hampton Court Bridge; I think you can give us some information as to the operation of the tolls upon the inhabitants of Moulsey?—I have put down a few notes upon the subject, and if the Committee will allow me to read them, it will save some time. "Hampton Court and parish of East Moulsey. The bridge divides the palace and the parish, in which is the railway terminus. Many workmen, labourers, laundresses, servants, and attendants are employed at the palace who live in the parish, and pay toll daily, going and returning, which is a heavy tax upon their wages, for the support of large families, not increased on that account. Many old, infirm, and poor, seek to pick up a scanty help for their subsistence by selling trifles; they have often told me that at times they have not taken enough to clear the tolls, and instances have occurred of their being compelled to pledge an article at the toll-gate for it. Kingston being the adjacent town, subjects the poor and neighbourhood to an additional toll. The dilapidated state of the very small parish church compels the chief of my parishioners to cross the bridge on Sunday, for which they pay double toll each way. I find that this operates very injuriously to the parochial interests in the support of schools and other objects, as they complain of being driven from their parish, whilst the burden of rates and taxes is borne by them. The nearest post-office is on the other side of the bridge. It costs 12*s.* per week for tolls to supply the palace with coals from the railway depôt, and 4*s.* for delivering parcels, &c., by the railway. Mr. Evans, a grocer on the Hampton Court side, pays 11*l.* a year contract for traffic over the bridge, which, and in many other like cases, operates as an indirect tax upon commodities to consumers on the Moulsey side. In cases of sudden and dangerous illness the bridge must be crossed for medical aid. At Easter, Whitsuntide, and the races, 10,000 a day have come down for recreation, and the palace being an object of attraction, it is visited by vast numbers throughout the year, each paying toll. The bridge is narrow, trembles under heavy carriages, obstructs navigation, and recently three lives were nearly lost by the boat" (one of those was the son of my churchwarden) "through the strong current, being upset in contact with the projecting timber. It is said that the Railway Act gives power to extend to Hampton Court; if so, they may build a bridge, and supersede the present." I have been told that the Hampton Court Railway Company have powers to carry the terminus to Hampton Court, in which case, I suppose that they have power in the Act to build a bridge. I have an abstract of the Act, which I will hand in. (*The same was delivered in.*)

157

APPENDIX.

LIST OF APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

Papers delivered in by Edward Tyrrell, Esq., 21 March 1854:

Return of the Amounts Annually received in respect of the Coal Duties since the 31st December 1831, distinguishing the Produce of the several Duties of Eightpence, Fourpence, and One Penny, with the respective Application thereof - - - - 148

Appendix, No. 2.

Papers delivered in by Ferdinand Brand, Esq., 21 March 1854:

Table No. 1.—Showing the Number of Vehicles and Horses passing through certain Thoroughfares within the City of London, between the Hours of 8 a. m. and 8 p. m., upon certain Days during the Year 1850 - - p. 150

Table No. 2.—Showing Totals of every Description of Vehicle passing per Hour, and per Day of 12 Hours, through certain Streets within the City of London; p. 152

Table No. 3.—Showing the Total Number of each Description of Vehicle passing through certain Streets within the City of London, between the Hours of 8 a. m. and 8 p. m. (12 Hours) - - - - - - - - - p. 153

Appendix, No. 3.

Paper furnished by R. Few, Esq.:

Charing Cross Bridge.—Statement of Traffic - - - - - - - p. 153

Appendix, No. 4.

Paper delivered in by Mr. George Powell, 23 May 1854:

(A.)—Half Yearly Audit (ending 23 August 1853), of the Waterloo Bridge Company - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 154

(B.)—Half Yearly Audit (ending 23 February 1854) of the Waterloo Bridge Company - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 155

(C.)—Statement of Bridge Tolls Received, made up to the several Periods at which the same have been divided - - - - - - - - - - - p. 156

Appendix, No. 5.

Paper delivered in by James Leith, Esq., 23 May 1854:

(D.)—Southwark Bridge Company.—Statement of Annual Tolls, from the Opening of the Bridge on Lady-Day 1819 to the 31st December 1835 - - - - p. 158

(E.)—Southwark Bridge.—Gate Traffic for Four Weeks, from 1st to 28th August 1851, during the period that London Bridge was partially shut up for Paving - p. 158

(F.)—Southwark Bridge Company.—Dividends paid on the Preferable Interest Shares; viz., 1,700 Shares at 50 *l.* each, and 5,000 Shares at 13 *l.* each - - p. 159

Appendix, No. 6.

Letter from G. Rennie, Esq., to B. Oliveira, Esq., M. P., Chairman - - - - p. 160

Appendix, No. 7.

Letter from T. Page, Esq., to B. Oliveira, Esq., M. P., Chairman, referred to in his Evidence, 15 June 1854 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 161

Appendix, No. 8.

An Account of Monies received by the Corporation of Kingston-upon-Thames, in the County of Surrey, as Commissioners for re-building Kingston Bridge, between the 1st day of September 1852 and the 1st day of September 1853 - - - - - - - p. 163

An Account of Monies disbursed and paid by the Corporation of Kingston-upon-Thames, in the County of Surrey, as Commissioners of Kingston Bridge, between the 1st day of September 1852 and the 1st day of September 1853 - - - - - - - - - - p. 164

Appendix, No. 9.

Resolution passed at Public Meeting of Inhabitants of Putney, 28 June 1854 - - p. 165

Appendix, No. 10.

Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, in the County of Surrey, the Trustees of Kingston Bridge - - - - - - - p. 165

Petition of Freeholders and Inhabitants of Kingston-upon-Thames, in the County of Surrey, and of Hampton, Hampton Court, and Hampton Wick, in the County of Middlesex p. 166

Petition of Freeholders and Inhabitants of Hampton, in the County of Middlesex, and of the Neighbourhood - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 166

Petition of Freeholders, Copyholders, Bondholders, and Inhabitants of the Town of Staines, in the County of Middlesex, and Egham, in the County of Surrey - - - - - p. 167

Petition of the Inhabitants of Putney, at a large Public Meeting assembled the 4th day of May 1854 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 168

Petition of Freeholders and Inhabitants of East Moulsey, in the County of Surrey, and of the Neighbourhood - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 168

Petition of the Inhabitants of Fulham, in public meeting assembled, the 20th of April 1854, p. 169

Appendix, No. 11.

Paper delivered in by Mr. John Guy, 22 June 1854:

Extract from an Act for building a Bridge across the River Thames, from Hampton Court, in the County of Middlesex, to East Moulsey, in the County of Surrey. 23d George 2d, 1749 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 170

Appendix, No. 12.

Paper furnished by Mr. S. S. Tayler:

Statement of the Income and Property of Battersea Bridge - - - - p. 170

Appendix, No. 13.

Paper delivered in by P. P. Baly, Esq., 21 June 1854:

Explanation of Plans for widening Hungerford Bridge and its Approaches - - p. 171

A P P E N D I X.

Appendix, No. 1.

PAPERS delivered in by *Edward Tyrrell*, Esq., 21 March 1854.

RETURN of the Amounts Annually received in respect of the Coal Duties since the 31st December 1831, distinguishing the Produce of the Several Duties of Eightpence, Fourpence, and One Penny, with the respective Application thereof.

The Amounts Annually received in respect of the Coal Duties since the 31st December 1831, with the Application thereof so far as concerns the Duty of Eightpence per Ton.

	Gross Duty at 8*d.* a Ton.	Drawback Allowed.	Net Duty after Allowing Drawback.	APPLICATION.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
From 5th January to 1st July 1832 - -	33,620 4 3	- - -	33,620 4 3	- - The produce of the duty carried, together with other monies then forming "The Orphans' Fund," to the credit of that fund.
From 2d July to 31st December 1832 -	39,898 2 6	- - -	39,898 2 6	The produce of the duty, together with wine duty, charges upon the corporate revenues, a duty on admission to the freedom of London, a duty on the binding of apprentices, the profits of aqueducts, and one moiety of the net profits of Farringdon Market, carried to the fund called "The London Bridge Approaches Fund," which fund is charged by Parliament with effecting street improvements in the metropolis.
From 1st January 1833 to 5th January 1834	69,010 13 –	- - -	69,010 13 –	
From 5th January 1834 to 5th January 1835	68,005 14 –	- - -	68,005 14 –	
1835 „ 1836	76,665 14 4	- - -	76,665 14 4	
„ 1836 „ 1837	79,915 4 2	- - -	79,915 4 2	
„ 1837 „ 1838	85,197 18 –	- - -	85,197 18 –	
„ 1838 „ 1839	88,703 14 10	87 16 –	88,615 18 10	
„ 1839 „ 1840	85,836 15 4	2,304 10 –	83,532 5 4	
„ 1840 „ 1841	89,705 11 8	2,709 4 8	86,996 7 –	
„ 1841 „ 1842	96,232 11 10	2,381 – –	93,851 11 10	
„ 1842 „ 1843	89,645 6 –	3,180 16 8	86,464 9 4	
„ 1843 „ 1844	92,765 10 6	2,814 8 8	89,951 1 10	
„ 1844 „ 1845	88,187 11 10	2,440 8 –	85,747 3 10	
„ 1845 „ 1846	112,197 15 11¼	3,582 2 –	108,915 13 11¼	
„ 1846 „ 1847	100,338 15 1	4,221 16 8	96,116 18 5	
„ 1847 „ 1848	109,399 13 3	4,089 2 8	105,310 10 7	
„ 1848 „ 1849	118,441 10 1	4,770 14 –	113,670 16 1	
„ 1849 „ 1850	110,046 13 8	4,653 5 4	105,393 8 4	
„ 1850 „ 1851	120,365 5 –	4,158 16 8	116,206 8 4	
„ 1851 „ 1852	117,606 10 9	6,019 15 4	111,586 15 5	
„ 1852 „ 1853	123,657 3 11	10,098 – 8	113,559 3 3	
„ 1853 „ 1854	133,409 10 –	10,505 14 8	122,903 15 4	

The Amounts Annually received in respect of the Coal Duties since the 31st December 1831, with the Application thereof so far as concerns the Duty of 4 *d.* per Ton.

	Gross Duty at 4 *d.* a Ton.	Drawback allowed.	Net Duty after allowing Drawback.	APPLICATION.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
For the Year ending 31 December 1832	35,722 9 11¼	- - -	35,722 9 11¼	The duty of 4 *d.* per ton being the property of the Corporation of London, is carried to the credit of the City's cash, subject to such application as they may from time to time direct.
" " 1833	34,004 11 5	- - -	34,004 11 5	
" " 1834	34,128 17 8	- - -	34,128 17 8	
" " 1835	38,394 8 5	- - -	38,394 8 5	
" " 1836	40,061 11 11	- - -	40,061 11 11	
" " 1837	42,431 11 –	- - -	42,431 11 –	
" " 1838	44,097 15 6	43 18 –	44,053 17 6	
" " 1839	42,888 8 –	1,152 5 –	41,736 3 –	
" " 1840	44,458 3 11	1,354 12 4	43,103 11 7	
" " 1841	48,521 17 2	1,190 10 –	47,331 7 2	
" " 1842	44,798 18 4	1,590 8 4	43,208 10 –	
" " 1843	46,080 16 9	1,407 4 4	44,673 12 5	
" " 1844	42,988 5 11	1,220 4 –	41,768 1 11	
" " 1845	57,741 3 7½	1,791 1 –	55,950 2 7½	
" " 1846	49,921 19 7	2,110 18 4	47,811 1 3	
" " 1847	55,284 7 2	2,044 11 4	53,239 15 10	
" " 1848	57,992 8 10	2,385 7 –	55,607 1 10	
" " 1849	55,515 13 2¼	2,326 12 8	53,189 – 6¼	
" " 1850	60,519 16 10	2,079 8 4	58,440 8 6	
" " 1851	58,357 14 –	3,009 17 8	55,347 16 4	
" " 1852	62,640 10 4	5,049 – 4	57,591 10 –	
" " 1853	66,083 3 –	5,252 17 4	60,830 5 8	

The Amounts Annually received in respect of the Coal Duties since the 31st day of December 1831, with the Application thereof so far as concerns the Duty of 1 *d.* per Ton.

	Gross Duty at 1 *d.* a Ton.	Drawback allowed.	Net Duty after allowing Drawback.	APPLICATION.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
For the Year ending 31st December 1832	8,922 5 10	- - -	8,922 5 10	From the year 1832 to the year 1845, inclusive, the duty of 1 *d.* per ton was applied in maintaining the market established for the sale of coals in the City of London, in paying the pensions due to the land coalmeters deprived of their offices by the operation of the Act 1 & 2 Will. 4, c. 76, and in carrying out generally the provisions of that Act.
" " 1833	8,499 3 9¼	- - -	8,499 3 9¼	
" " 1834	8,531 16 11	- - -	8,531 16 11	
" " 1835	9,598 7 8½	- - -	9,598 7 8½	
" " 1836	10,015 6 1¼	- - -	10,015 6 1¼	
" " 1837	10,608 12 2	- - -	10,608 12 2	
" " 1838	11,024 13 8¼	10 19 6	11,013 14 2¼	
" " 1839	10,728 14 6	288 1 3	10,440 13 3	
" " 1840	11,113 3 4½	338 13 1	10,774 10 3½	
" " 1841	12,142 2 5¾	297 12 6	11,844 9 11¾	
" " 1842	11,199 17 2	397 12 1	10,802 5 1	
" " 1843	11,521 14 9¾	351 16 1	11,169 18 8¾	
" " 1844	10,749 17 –¾	305 1 –	10,444 16 –¾	
" " 1845	14,421 13 4	447 15 3	13,973 18 1	
" " 1846	12,476 12 6¼	527 14 7	11,948 17 11¼	Since the year 1845, the duty of 1 *d.* per ton has been paid to Her Majesty's Commissioners of Works, to be applied by them in effecting public improvements in the metropolis authorised by several Acts of Parliament.
" " 1847	13,831 4 4	511 2 10	13,320 1 6	
" " 1848	14,489 19 2⅓	596 6 9	13,893 12 5½	
" " 1849	13,877 6 7½	581 13 2	13,295 13 5½	
" " 1850	15,230 – 8⅓	519 17 1	14,710 3 7½	
" " 1851	14,467 4 9	752 9 5	13,714 15 4	
" " 1852	15,660 2 7	1,262 5 1	14,397 17 6	
" " 1853	16,520 15 9	1,313 4 4	15,207 11 5	

Chamber of London, 20 March 1854.

Wm. Payne, Chief Clerk.

Appendix, No. 2.

PAPERS delivered in by *Ferdinand Brand*, Esq., 21 March 1854.

STREET TRAFFIC.—TABLES showing the Number of VEHICLES passing through STREETS.

TABLE No. 1.—Showing the Number of VEHICLES and HORSES passing through certain Thoroughfares within the

DATE.	SITUATION.	Hour ending 9 A.M.			Hour ending 10 A.M.			Hour ending 11 A.M.			Hour ending 12 A.M.			Hour ending 1 P.M.		
		Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by		
		1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.
8 July 1850	Temple Bar Gate - -	230	61	20	292	192	42	448	235	21	505	222	30	460	218	13
9 „ „	Holborn Hill, by St. Andrew's Church.	250	65	12	380	166	6	480	181	9	530	154	14	453	160	10
10 „ „	Ludgate Hill, by Pilgrim-street.	268	76	17	290	170	16	454	261	13	420	210	6	530	256	3
11 „ „	Newgate-street, by Old Bailey.	250	59	11	360	155	13	433	184	11	367	137	5	390	156	9
12 „ „	Aldersgate-street, by Fann-street.	140	20	8	198	52	11	150	44	14	147	36	13	165	40	9
13 „ „	Cheapside, by Foster-lane	345	110	18	483	301	21	703	385	36	768	390	11	680	334	6
15 „ „	Poultry, by Mansion House	287	103	24	437	315	10	654	398	19	690	373	17	680	358	5
16 „ „	Finsbury Pavement, by South Place.	185	63	14	252	123	10	330	138	7	250	129	8	243	115	6
17 „ „	Cornhill, by Royal Exchange.	98	56	7	172	177	15	252	210	17	270	184	7	275	208	4
18 „ „	Threadneedle-street -	47	47	4	67	77	1	162	97	3	160	50	4	160	50	1
19 „ „	Gracechurch-street, by St. Peter's-alley.	202	50	6	200	99	23	308	113	18	320	175	12	295	87	10
20 „ „	Lombard-street, by Birchin-lane.	121	15	1	87	28	2	140	12	4	174	14	-	160	9	-
22 „ „	Bishopsgate-street Within, by Great St. Helen's.	194	58	7	253	144	11	323	164	13	277	143	10	260	125	11
23 „ „	London Bridge - -	519	139	22	744	339	45	955	334	43	820	274	30	775	296	23
24 „ „	Bishopsgate-street, Without, by City Boundary.	148	51	4	197	121	11	310	134	3	170	109	7	191	112	4
25 „ „	Aldgate High-street, by City Boundary.	335	68	22	291	111	20	292	115	10	287	145	10	300	135	10
26 „ „	Leadenhall-street, rear of East India House.	193	45	13	272	141	16	388	196	11	340	150	5	415	168	11
27 „ „	Eastcheap, by Philpot-lane	274	35	26	293	40	13	340	46	12	320	34	18	340	27	11
29 „ „	Tower-street, by Mark-lane.	132	22	15	180	37	5	220	32	10	220	39	12	260	26	6
30 „ „	Lower Thames-street, by Botolph-lane.	79	7	2	117	10	3	153	15	7	90	7	8	83	21	1
31 „ „	Blackfriars Bridge - -	268	42	17	280	78	23	409	99	10	393	89	34	365	78	22
1 Aug. „	Upper Thames-street, rear of Queen-street.	97	28	15	172	43	12	126	28	11	160	42	21	160	35	10
2 „ „	Smithfield Bars - -	180	16	7	206	18	6	180	16	6	254	14	9	252	18	6
3 „ „	Fenchurch-street - -	175	20	11	198	60	4	205	41	7	298	39	6	240	45	8
		5,017	1,256	303	6,421	2,997	339	8,415	3,478	315	8,230	3,159	297	8,132	3,077	199

Appendix, No. 2.

PAPERS delivered in by *Ferdinand Brand*, Esq., 21 March 1854.

STREET TRAFFIC.—TABLES showing the Number of Vehicles passing through Streets.

City of *London*, between the Hours of 8 A. M. and 8 P. M., upon certain Days during the Year 1850.

Hour ending 2 P. M.			Hour ending 3 P. M.			Hour ending 4 P. M.			Hour ending 5 P. M.			Hour ending 6 P. M.			Hour ending 7 P. M.			Hour ending 8 P. M.		
Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by			Vehicles drawn by		
1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	1 Horse, including Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.
415	230	19	550	231	10	496	237	4	470	255	13	435	219	17	329	200	8	405	198	11
435	158	13	373	150	12	270	100	7	639	251	25	330	111	4	615	209	17	219	92	6
330	180	4	400	221	7	288	242	1	375	235	9	360	220	4	330	210	3	214	202	4
377	155	5	390	167	7	525	201	12	390	177	5	415	142	6	337	126	4	250	136	8
180	49	6	150	32	12	172	40	7	187	36	12	185	40	8	175	44	10	141	46	11
664	336	9	665	338	4	730	339	7	671	427	8	645	303	16	482	319	7	271	212	9
595	337	9	548	321	6	575	330	5	565	381	10	505	310	10	455	344	3	292	299	4
223	118	4	184	107	2	215	128	4	340	135	8	300	159	16	242	142	16	140	101	3
253	180	8	305	185	3	276	172	3	255	206	7	242	180	8	177	176	1	186	140	1
120	32	2	164	46	2	157	37	1	150	45	3	157	45	3	115	30	3	77	31	–
330	81	12	360	93	11	375	123	18	302	135	24	310	113	13	253	79	6	250	75	6
215	15	2	227	9	1	283	20	1	223	20	–	180	26	3	115	15	–	94	12	–
164	70	4	320	113	6	287	140	5	380	150	11	320	123	7	270	127	7	222	120	3
765	255	28	793	284	24	845	305	30	975	336	33	970	305	33	680	264	18	510	258	30
243	96	3	285	97	8	231	103	1	309	113	8	305	126	8	203	112	8	177	99	3
249	123	7	360	112	17	274	122	13	248	141	16	276	110	15	220	100	11	190	96	3
385	171	7	353	158	14	387	172	10	295	166	5	390	183	15	292	139	6	260	152	6
300	28	15	310	38	20	345	40	8	340	43	15	280	58	11	230	59	5	109	16	3
270	39	15	252	34	4	226	26	10	230	39	13	195	34	9	137	25	2	94	16	4
100	8	–	100	15	3	130	13	4	143	23	2	100	15	6	52	14	3	40	4	2
253	65	18	302	73	10	340	66	10	450	103	17	446	87	15	361	89	13	265	66	6
120	31	9	125	33	6	160	44	9	185	52	16	241	54	17	139	25	12	71	13	9
232	19	4	305	20	9	250	11	6	305	17	6	265	20	4	269	10	9	145	14	–
223	39	7	220	46	6	267	54	6	300	57	7	215	36	8	193	53	3	516	28	1
7,441	2,815	210	7,941	2,923	204	8,104	3,065	182	8,727	3,543	273	8,067	3,019	256	6,671	2,911	175	5,138	2,426	133

TABLE No. 2.—Showing Totals of every Description of VEHICLE passing per Hour, and per Day of 12 Hours, through certain Streets within the City of *London*.

DATE.	SITUATION.	Hours Ending 9 A.M.	10 A.M.	11 A.M.	12 NOON.	1 P.M.	2 P.M.	3 P.M.	4 P.M.	5 P.M.	6 P.M.	7 P.M.	8 P.M.	TOTAL of 12 Hours.	Average per Hour.
8 July 1850	Temple Bar Gate -	311	526	704	757	691	664	791	737	738	671	537	614	7,741	645
9 „ „	Holborn-hill, by St. Andrew's Church.	327	552	670	698	623	606	535	377	915	445	841	317	6,906	575
10 „ „	Ludgate-hill, by Pilgrim-street.	361	476	728	636	789	514	628	531	619	584	543	420	6,829	569
11 „ „	Newgate-street, by Old Bailey.	320	528	628	509	555	537	564	738	572	563	467	394	6,375	531
12 „ „	Aldersgate-street, by Fann-street.	168	261	208	196	214	235	194	219	235	233	229	198	2,590	215
13 „ „	Cheapside, by Foster-lane.	473	805	1,124	1,169	1,020	1,009	1,007	1,076	1,106	964	808	492	11,053	921
15 „ „	Poultry, by Mansion House.	414	762	1,071	1,080	1,043	941	875	910	956	825	802	595	10,274	856
16 „ „	Finsbury Pavement, by South-place.	262	385	475	387	364	345	293	347	483	475	400	244	4,460	371
17 „ „	Cornhill, by Royal Exchange.	161	364	479	461	487	441	493	451	468	430	354	327	4,916	409
18 „ „	Threadneedle-street -	98	145	262	214	211	154	212	195	198	205	148	108	2,150	179
19 „ „	Gracechurch-street, by St. Peter's-alley.	258	322	439	507	392	423	464	516	461	436	338	331	4,887	407
20 „ „	Lombard-street, by Birchin-lane.	137	117	156	188	169	232	237	304	243	209	130	106	2,228	185
22 „ „	Bishopsgate-street, by Great St. Helen's.	259	408	500	430	396	238	439	432	541	450	404	345	4,842	403
23 „ „	London Bridge - -	680	1,128	1,332	1,124	1,094	1,048	1,101	1,180	1,344	1,308	962	798	13,099	1,091
24 „ „	Bishopsgate-street Without, by City Boundary.	203	329	447	286	307	342	390	335	430	439	323	279	4,110	342
25 „ „	Aldgate High-street, by City Boundary.	425	422	417	442	445	379	389	409	405	401	331	289	4,754	396
26 „ „	Leadenhall-street, by East India House	251	420	595	495	594	563	525	569	466	588	437	418	5,930	494
27 „ „	Eastcheap, by Philpot-lane.	335	346	398	372	378	343	368	393	398	349	294	128	4,102	341
29 „ „	Tower-street, by Mark-lane.	169	222	262	271	292	324	290	262	282	238	164	114	2,890	240
30 „ „	Lower Thames-street, by Botolph-lane.	88	136	175	105	105	108	118	147	168	121	69	46	1,380	115
31 „ „	Blackfriars Bridge -	327	381	518	516	465	336	385	416	570	548	463	337	5,262	438
1 Aug. „	Upper Thames-street, rear of Queen-street.	140	227	165	223	205	160	164	213	253	312	176	93	2,331	194
2 „ „	Smithfield Bars - -	203	230	202	277	276	255	334	267	328	289	288	159	3,108	259
3 „ „	Fenchurch-street - -	206	262	253	343	293	269	272	327	364	259	249	545	3,642	303
		6,576	9,757	12,208	11,686	11,408	10,466	11,068	11,351	12,543	11,342	9,757	7,697	125,859	10,488

TABLE No. 3.—Showing the Total Number of each Description of VEHICLE passing through certain Streets within the City of *London*, between the Hours of 8 A. M. and 8 P. M. (12 Hours).

DATE.	SITUATION.	Total Number of Vehicles drawn by			Total of the whole.	Average Number per Hour.			Average of the whole.
		1 Horse and Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.		1 Horse and Equestrians.	2 Horses.	3 Horses or more.	
8 July 1850	Temple Bar Gate	5,035	2,498	208	7,741	419	208	17	645
9 „ „	Holborn Hill, by St. Andrew's Church	4,974	1,797	135	6,906	414	149	11	575
10 „ „	Ludgate Hill, by Pilgrim-street	4,259	2,483	87	6,829	354	207	7	569
11 „ „	Newgate-street, by Old Bailey	4,484	1,795	96	6,375	373	149	8	531
12 „ „	Aldersgate-street, by Fann-street	1,990	479	121	2,590	165	40	10	215
13 „ „	Cheapside, by Foster-lane	7,107	3,794	152	11,053	592	316	12	921
15 „ „	Poultry, by Mansion House	6,283	3,869	122	10,274	523	332	10	856
16 „ „	Finsbury Pavement, by South-place	2,904	1,458	98	4,460	242	121	8	371
17 „ „	Cornhill, by Royal Exchange	2,761	2,074	81	4,916	230	172	7	409
18 „ „	Threadneedle-street	1,536	587	27	2,150	128	49	2	179
19 „ „	Gracechurch-street, by St. Peter's Alley	3,505	1,223	159	4,887	292	102	13	407
20 „ „	Lombard-street, by Birchin-lane	2,019	195	14	2,228	168	16	1	185
22 „ „	Bishopsgate-street, by Great St. Helen's	3,270	1,477	95	4,842	272	123	8	403
23 „ „	London Bridge	9,351	3,389	359	13,099	779	282	30	1,091
24 „ „	Bishopsgate-street Without, by City Boundary	2,769	1,273	68	4,110	230	106	5	342
25 „ „	Aldgate High-street, by City Boundary	3,222	1,378	154	4,754	268	114	10	396
26 „ „	Leadenhall-street, by East India House	3,970	1,841	119	5,930	330	153	12	494
27 „ „	Eastcheap, by Philpot-lane	3,481	464	157	4,102	290	38	13	341
29 „ „	Tower-street, by Mark-lane	2,416	369	105	2,890	201	30	8	240
30 „ „	Lower Thames-street, by Botolph-lane	1,187	152	41	1,380	98	12	3	115
31 „ „	Blackfriars Bridge	4,132	935	195	5,262	344	78	16	438
1 Aug. „	Upper Thames-street, rear of Queen-street	1,756	428	147	2,331	146	35	12	194
2 „ „	Smithfield Bars	2,843	193	72	3,108	237	16	6	259
3 „ „	Fenchurch-street	3,050	518	74	3,642	254	43	6	303
		88,304	34,669	2,886	125,859	7,358	2,889	240	10,488

Appendix, No 3.

PAPER furnished by *R. Few*, Esq.

CHARING-CROSS BRIDGE.—STATEMENT OF TRAFFIC.

1845	1 May to 31 July	1,248,198		1850	31 January to 31 July	1,496,918	
	31 July to 31 January	1,492,676			31 July to 31 January	1,445,091	
			2,740,874				2,942,009
1846	31 January to 31 July	1,611,146		1851	31 January to 31 July	1,699,194	
	31 July to 31 January	1,512,353			31 July to 31 January	1,792,624	
			3,123,499				3,491,818 *
1847	31 January to 31 July	1,634,622		1852	31 January to 31 July	1,551,340	
	31 July to 31 January	1,528,288			31 July to 31 January	1,470,952	
			3,162,910				3,022,292
1848	31 January to 31 July	1,472,727		1853	31 January to 31 July	1,529,700	
	31 July to 31 January	1,440,098			31 July to 31 January	1,495,522	
			2,912,825				3,025,222
1849	31 January to 31 July	1,550,158		1854	31 January to 30 April		735,292
	31 July to 31 January	1,389,822					
			2,939,980				28,096,721

* The year of the Great Exhibition.

The traffic to and from the steamboat pier rather exceeds 2,500,000 annually, thus making a traffic over one part of the bridge of upwards of 5,500,000.

The number of persons on the bridge on the occasion of Prince Albert's visit to the City (30 October 1849) amounted to 33,857, and it was estimated that at one period of the day 9,000 persons were assembled, chiefly in the centre of the bridge.

Appendix, No. 4.

PAPER delivered in by Mr. *George Powell*, 23 May 1854.

(A.)

WATERLOO BRIDGE COMPANY.

Dr. The Waterloo Bridge Company, Half-year ended the 23d August 1853. *Cr.*

INCOME.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	CONTRA.	£. s. d.
To Foot toll received from 23 February 1853 to this date	5,047 16 10		By Wages of 10 toll collectors, roadman, and messenger	461 10 –
Horse toll, ditto	4,804 10 9		Lighting the bridge and approaches with gas	81 12 –
		9,852 7 7	Watering and carting, as per contract	65 – –
Rents of arched vaults for half a year		382 7 6	Oiling, cleaning, and repairing indicators	10 – –
Ditto of London Gas Company		75 – –	Repairs of roads, including materials	160 14 10
Ditto of Electric Telegraph Company		12 10 –	Taxes	16 9 10
Interest on Reduced 3 *l.* per Cents., 2,388 *l.* 1 *s.* 2 *d.* Stock, the consideration for a lease of 10 arched vaults		35 16 5	Rent of Company's house	63 – –
Interest on Exchequer bills, 7,000 *l.*		136 4 –	Remuneration to directors and auditors	105 – –
			Salaries, chief clerk and assistant clerk	275 – –
			Stationery	3 15 6
			Printing and books	13 6 –
			Incidentals	17 2 10
			Advertisements	3 16 11
			Expenses	1,276 7 11
			By Income duty	238 10 11
			Total Disbursements	1,514 18 10
			By Interest on bonds, at 5 *l.*, 4 *l.*, and 3½ per cent.	1,295 16 –
			Dividend of 4 *s.* in the pound on 37,500 *l.* annuities, due this half year	7,500 – –
				10,310 14 10
			Stock, surplus of this half year	183 10 8
£.	10,494 5 6		£.	10,494 5 6

BALANCE.

1853:		£. s. d.	1853:		£. s. d.
23 Aug.	To Cash in treasurer's hands	6,718 3 3	23 Aug.	By Arrears of dividends and interest on bonds	1,288 1 3
	Exchequer bills	7,000 – –		Interest on bonds due this day	1,295 16 –
	Balance of disbursements	60 1 7		Dividend of 4 *s.* on annuities	7,500 – –
					10,083 17 3
				Balance in reserve	3,694 7 7
	£.	13,778 4 10		£.	13,778 4 10

Examined, (signed) *C. P. Bousfield*, *John Lyon*, } Auditors.

(B.)

Dr. The Waterloo Bridge Company, Half-year ended the 23d February 1854. *Cr.*

INCOME.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
To foot toll received from the 23d of August last to this date - -	4,921 – 5	
Horse toll - ditto -	4,423 12 11	
		9,344 13 4
Rents of arched vaults for half a year - -	382 7 6	
Ditto of the London Gas Company - -	75 – –	
Ditto of Electric Telegraph Company -	12 10 –	
Interest, half-year's dividend upon 2,388 *l.* 1 *s.* 2 *d.* Reduced 3 *l.* per cents., purchased with the consideration received for a lease of 10 arched vaults, as directed by the 58 Geo. 3 - -	35 16 5	
Watering, per contributions - - -	15 – –	
		520 13 11
Stock appropriated - - - -		741 – 10
	£.	10,606 8 1

CONTRA.	£. s. d.
By Wages of ten toll collectors, roadman, and messenger - - - - -	500 14 –
Lighting the bridge and approaches with gas - - - - - -	81 12 –
Watering, &c., as per contract -	65 – –
Oiling and cleaning indicators, ditto	10 – –
Coals and candles for offices, 1 year -	20 – –
Repairs of roads, including materials	128 7 3
Rent of Company's house - -	63 – –
Taxes - - - - - - -	20 19 9
Remuneration to directors and auditors - - - - - - -	105 – –
Salaries of chief clerk and assistant clerk, and allowance to W. Boardman - - - - - - -	288 – –
Great coats for toll men - - -	16 10 –
Stationery - - - - - -	3 1 6
Printing and books - - -	14 17 –
Painting toll-houses, &c. - - -	27 – 4
Christmas gift to treasurer's clerks -	5 5 –
Incidental expenses - - - - -	18 4 3
Sundry repairs - - - - -	5 10 6
Advertisements - - - - -	3 15 10
Expenses - - -	1,376 17 5
Hunter and English, Kentish rag stone, &c. - - - - - -	195 3 9
Income duty - - - - - -	238 10 11
Total Disbursements -	1,810 12 1
Interest on bonds at 5 *l.*, 4 *l.*, and 3 *l.* 10 *s.* per cent. (less income duty)	1,295 16 –
Dividend of 4 *s.* in the pound on annuities upon 37,500 *l.*, due this half year - - - - - - - -	7,500 – –
£.	10,606 8 1

BALANCE.

1854:		£. s. d.	1854:		£. s. d.
23 Feb. -	To Cash in treasurer's hands	5,728 12 4	23 Feb. -	By Arrears of dividends and interest on bonds -	967 2 –
	Exchequer bills - - -	7,000 – –		Interest on bonds due this day - - - -	1,295 16 –
				Dividend of 4 *s.* on annuities - - -	7,500 – –
				Balance of disbursements	12 7 7
				Balance in reserve -	2,953 6 9
	£.	12,728 12 4		£.	12,728 12 4

Examined, (signed) *C. P. Bousfield*, *John Lyon*, *B. B. Turner*, } Auditors.

(C.)

STATEMENT of Bridge Tolls Received, made up to the several Periods at which the same have been divided. (The Bridge was opened on the 18th June 1817.)

Date to	Horse Gate.	Foot Gates.	Total, Half-year.	Annual Total.	Dividends and Amount in the Pound.		——
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		s. d.	
23 Aug. - 1817	Horse and foot together		2,000 3 –	- - -	–	- -	9 weeks and 2 days.
23 Feb. - 1818	654 11 4	2,727 3 4	3,381 14 8	- - -	1st	1 –	- 35 weeks and 4 days' receipts.
				5,381 17 8			
August 1818	949 13 3	2,982 13 4	4,932 6 7	- - -	2d	2 2	
February 1819	902 14 11	3,260 17 3	4,163 12 2	- - -	3d	2 –	
				9,095 18 9			
August 1819	1,189 14 11	4,339 18 –	5,529 12 11	- - -	4th	2 4	
February 1820	967 9 6	3,324 12 –	4,292 1 6	- - -	5th	1 8	
				9,821 14 5			
August 1820	1,379 11 10	4,073 – 7	5,652 12 5	- - -	6th	2 2	
February 1821	1,148 10 8	3,915 17 4	5,064 8 –	- - -	7th	2 –	
				10,717 – 5			
August 1821	1,566 6 8	4,659 7 6	6,225 14 2	- - -	8th	2 6	
February 1822	1,307 10 –	4,307 4 3	5,614 4 3	- - -	9th	2 2	
				11,839 18 5			
August 1822	1,732 2 6	4,924 7 10	6,656 10 4	- - -	10th	2 8	
February 1823	1,393 5 11	4,298 7 1	5,691 13 –	- - -	11th	2 2	
				12,348 3 4			
August 1823	1,789 2 8	5,182 7 9	6,971 10 5	- - -	12th	2 8	
February 1824	1,577 2 4	4,946 8 –	6,523 10 4	- - -	13th	2 6	
				13,495 – 9			
August 1824	1,805 19 5	5,509 8 8	7,315 18 1	- - -	14th	2 10	
February 1825	1,762 9 8	5,308 14 4	7,071 4 –	- - -	15th	2 10	
				14,387 2 1			
August 1825	1,819 18 9	6,108 17 7	7,928 16 4	- - -	16th	3 2	
February 1826	1,444 16 –	5,585 4 5	7,030 – 5	- - -	17th	3 –	
				14,958 16 9			
August 1826	1,610 19 1	5,885 14 3	7,496 13 4	- - -	18th	3 –	
February 1827	1,280 16 2	5,136 12 4	6,417 8 6	- - -	19th	2 8	
				13,914 1 10			
August 1827	1,608 9 7	5,663 – 2	7,271 9 9	- - -	20th	2 10	
February 1828	1,364 3 8	5,082 19 8	6,447 3 4	- - -	21st	2 6	
				13,718 13 1			
August 1828	1,506 10 6	5,736 15 8	7,243 6 2	- - -	22d	3 –	
February 1829	1,193 8 6	5,199 2 8	6,392 11 2	- - -	23d	2 6	
				13,635 17 4			
August 1829	1,396 7 5	5,345 1 6	6,741 8 11	- - -	24th	2 8	
February 1830	1,135 5 9	4,741 5 8	5,876 11 5	- - -	25th	2 2	
				12,618 – 4			
August 1830	1,377 9 2	5,263 5 8	6,640 14 10	- - -	26th	2 6	
February 1831	1,129 7 11	4,727 – 3	5,856 8 2	- - -	27th	2 2	
				12,497 3 –			
August 1831	1,901 – 8	5,435 15 5	7,356 16 1	- - -	28th	3 –	
February 1832	1,178 9 5	4,879 16 8	6,058 6 1	- - -	29th	2 2	
				13,395 2 2			
August 1832	1,360 4 2	5,052 15 –	6,412 19 2	- - -	30th	2 6	
February 1833	1,199 6 5	4,448 5 4	5,647 11 9	- - -	31st	2 2	
				12,060 10 11			
August 1833	1,472 11 1	4,861 1 9	6,333 12 10	- - -	32d	2 6	
February 1834	1,413 17 9	4,776 9 4	6,190 7 1	- - -	33d	2 4	
				12,523 19 11			
August 1834	1,543 11 11	5,092 8 8	6,636 – 7	- - -	34th	2 6	
February 1835	1,275 5 3	4,788 3 10	6,063 9 1	- - -	35th	2 4	
				12,699 9 8			
August 1835	1,497 15 6	5,006 18 10	6,504 14 4	- - -	36th	2 6	
February 1836	1,286 7 –	4,703 – 5	5,989 7 5	- - -	37th	2 2	
				12,494 1 9			

Date to	Horse Gate. £.	s.	d.	Foot Gates. £.	s.	d.	Total, Half-year. £.	s.	d.	Annual Total. £.	s.	d.	Dividends and Amount in the Pound.	s.	d.	——
August 1836	1,561	16	–	5,090	8	9	6,652	4	9	-	-		38th	2	8	- - 31 December 1836, horse toll received.
February 1837	1,307	9	4	4,831	6	9	6,138	16	1	-	-	-	39th	2	2	
										12,791	–	10				
August 1837	1,521	9	3	5,155	12	3	6,677	1	6	-	-	-	40th	2	8	
February 1838	1,468	1	10	4,918	3	10	6,386	5	8	-	-	-	41st	2	6	Repairing Fleet-street.
										13,063	7	2				
August 1838	1,735	19	5	5,353	17	7	7,089	17	–	-	-	-	42d	3	–	Coronation.
February 1839	1,526	6	1	4,967	11	–	6,493	17	1	-	-	-	43d	2	6	
										13,583	14	1				
August 1839	1,700	9	10	5,260	11	11	6,961	1	9	-	-	-	44th	2	8	- - 1 July 1839, horse toll received.
February 1840	1,516	12	2	5,057	8	3	6,574	–	5	-	-	-	45th	2	6	Queen's marriage.
										13,535	2	2				
August 1840	2,242	17	1	5,340	2	10	7,582	19	11	-	-	-	46th	3	2	- - Blackfriars-bridge closed.
February 1841	2,003	16	–	4,855	7	4	6,859	3	4	-	-	-	47th	2	6	- - ½ d. toll commenced 1st March.
										14,442	3	3				
August 1841	2,665	15	11	4,807	19	1	7,473	15	–	-	-	-	48th	2	8	- - Westminster-bridge closed 21 days.
February 1842	1,510	11	6	4,636	4	1	6,146	15	7	-	-	-	49th	2	6	
										13,620	10	7				
August 1842	1,736	16	6	5,091	15	7	6,828	12	1	-	-	-	50th	2	6	
February 1843	1,635	10	4	4,885	17	1	6,521	7	5	-	-	-	51st	2	6	
										13,349	19	6				
August 1843	2,212	7	10	5,225	14	8	7,438	2	6	-	-	-	52d	2	10	
February 1844	3,965	15	7	5,122	4	3	9,087	19	10	-	-	-	53d	3	–	- - Westminster bridge closed 10 weeks.
										16,526	2	4				
August 1844	2,478	9	8	5,384	1	10	7,862	11	6	-	-	-	54th	3	2	
February 1845	2,694	18	3	5,232	18	8	7,927	16	11	-	-	-	55th	3	–	
										15,790	8	5				
August 1845	2,530	7	1	4,817	17	9	7,348	4	10	-	-	-	56th	3	2	- - Hungerford-bridge opened 1 May 1845.
February 1846	2,564	4	1	4,588	10	11	7,152	15	–	-	-	-	57th	3	–	
										14,500	19	10				
August 1846	3,088	12	10	4,554	10	–	7,643	2	10	-	-	-	58th	3	2	
February 1847	6,495	1	5	4,529	11	3	11,024	12	8	-	-	-	59th	3	6	- - Westminster-bridge closed 19 weeks.
										18,667	15	6				
August 1847	2,771	–	2	4,552	6	8	7,323	6	10	-	-	-	60th	3	2	
February 1848	2,405	18	9	4,200	1	4	6,606	–	1	-	-	-	61st	3	–	
										13,929	6	11				
August 1848	2,804	18	9	4,262	10	9	7,067	9	6	-	-	-	62d	3	–	
February 1849	2,964	8	4	4,481	7	7	7,445	15	11	-	-	-	63d	2	10	
										14,513	5	5				
August 1849	3,500	17	7	4,580	13	10	8,081	11	5	-	-	-	64th	3	–	Station opened.
February 1850	3,007	10	2	4,360	1	4	7,367	11	6	-	-	-	65th	2	10	
										15,449	2	11				
August 1850	3,758	–	9	4,676	17	11	8,434	18	8	-	-	-	66th	3	–	
February 1851	3,488	2	4	4,551	13	8	8,039	16	–	-	-	-	67th	3	–	
										16,474	14	8				
August 1851	5,158	2	9	5,546	7	1	10,704	9	10	-	-	-	68th	3	6	Great Exhibition.
February 1852	4,307	7	2	5,236	4	5	9,543	11	7	-	-	-	69th	3	6	
										20,248	1	5				
August 1852	4,459	11	3	4,858	16	10	9,318	8	1	-	-	-	70th	3	6	
February 1853	4,026	6	7	4,744	2	5	8,770	9	–	-	-	-	71st	3	6	
										18,088	17	1				
August 1853	4,804	10	9	5,047	16	10	9,852	7	7	-	-	-	72d	4	–	
February 1854	4,423	12	11	4,921	–	5	9,344	13	4	-	-	-	73d	4	–	
										19,197	–	11				

Note.—£. 312 10 *s.* will pay 2 *d.* in the pound on both classes of the Annuities.

Appendix, No. 5.

PAPER delivered in by *James Leith*, Esq., 23 May 1854.

(D.)

SOUTHWARK BRIDGE COMPANY.

STATEMENT of Annual Tolls, from the Opening of the Bridge on Lady-day 1819 to the 31st December 1835.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount of toll for year 1819 (9 months) -	5,044	3	1
Ditto - - - - 1820 - - -	5,064	7	6
Ditto - - - - 1821 - - -	4,838	12	10
Ditto - - - - 1822 - - -	5,441	15	9
Ditto - - - - 1823 - - -	5,917	11	3
Ditto - - - - 1824 - - -	5,562	16	1
Ditto - - - - 1825 - - -	6,685	9	11
Ditto - - - - 1826 - - -	6,742	14	1
Ditto - - - - 1827 - - -	6,621	14	9
Ditto - - - - 1828 - - -	6,939	12	4
Ditto - - - - 1829 - - -	6,807	4	1
Ditto - - - - 1830 - - -	7,110	4	10
Ditto - - - - 1831 - - -	6,846	3	5
Ditto - - - - 1832 - - -	4,544	4	–
Ditto - - - - 1833 - - -	4,528	–	2
Ditto - - - - 1834 - - -	3,983	4	5
Ditto - - - - 1835 - - -	3,666	4	11
Ditto - - - - 1836 - - -	3,700	7	5
Ditto - - - - 1837 - - -	3,576	8	9
Ditto - - - - 1838 - - -	3,713	2	–
Ditto - - - - 1839 - - -	3,670	3	6
Ditto - - - - 1840 - - -	3,774	16	8
Ditto - - - - 1841 - - -	4,481	18	11
Boats -	242	3	7

	£.	s.	d.
Amount of toll for year 1842 - - -	3,965	7	2
Boats -	303	8	6
Ditto - - - - 1843 - - -	4,458	1	6
Boats -	350	–	–
Ditto - - - - 1844 - - -	3,618	6	9
Boats -	340	–	–
Ditto - - - - 1845 - - -	3,533	11	8
Boats -	370	–	–
Ditto - - - - 1846 - - -	3,511	19	7
Boats -	370	–	–
Ditto - - - - 1847 - - -	3,538	8	9
Boats -	240	–	–
Ditto - - - - 1848 - - -	3,282	14	9
Boats -	320	–	–
Ditto - - - - 1849 - - -	2,875	7	8
Boats -	190	–	–
Ditto - - - - 1850 - - -	2,746	3	–
Boats -	150	–	–
Ditto - - - - 1851 - - -	2,666	–	10
Boats -	74	10	–
Ditto - - - - 1852 - - -	3,977	1	–
Ditto - - - - 1853 - - -	2,750	10	1
Ditto - - - - 1854 - - -	2,913	8	10

(E.)

SOUTHWARK BRIDGE.

Gate Traffic for Four Weeks, from 1st to 28th August 1851, during the Period that London Bridge was partially shut up for Paving.

	1st Week.	2d Week.	3d Week.	4th Week.	Total.
Saddle Horses, at 1 *d.* - - -	550	472	426	375	1,823
Omnibuses, at 3 *d.* - - - -	4,638	4,853	4,663	4,116	18,270
Carriages, at 2 *d.* - - - -	3,516	3,390	4,198	3,773	14,877
Ditto - at 3 *d.* - - - -	189	166	151	165	671
Ditto - at 4 *d.* - - - -	198	196	160	159	713
Carts, at 1 ½ *d.* - - - -	8,713	8,769	7,892	7,714	33,088
Ditto, at 2 ½ *d.* - - - -	503	567	468	472	2,010
Waggons, at 2 *d.* - - - -	1,020	941	804	999	3,764
Ditto - at 3 *d.* - - - -	1,048	927	797	844	3,616
Ditto - at 4 *d.* - - - -	489	431	331	482	1,733
Ditto - at 5 *d.* - - - -	152	121	123	116	512
Trucks, at 1 *d.* - - - -	1,239	976	814	663	3,692
	22,255	21,809	20,827	19,878	84,769

(F.)

SOUTHWARK BRIDGE COMPANY.

DIVIDENDS paid on the PREFERABLE INTEREST SHARES; viz. 1,700 Shares at £. 50 each, and 5,000 Shares at £. 13. each.

		£.	s.	d.
	For year 1824, 2*l.* per share on 1,700 shares - - - - -	3,400	-	-
	Ditto - 1825, 1*l.* 10*s.* per share on 1,700 shares - £.2,550 - -			
	Ditto - „ 4*s.* per share on 5,000 shares - 1,000 - -			
		3,550	-	-
	For year 1826, 3 per cent. on both classes of shares ad valorem -	4,500	-	-
	Ditto - 1827 - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	4,500	-	-
	Ditto - 1828 - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	4,500	-	-
	Ditto - 1829 - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	4,500	-	-
	Ditto - 1830, 3½ per cent. - - - ditto - - - - -	5,250	-	-
	Ditto - 1831 - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	5,250	-	-
	Ditto - 1832, 2½ per cent. - - - ditto - - - - -	3,750	-	-
	Ditto - 1833, 2 per cent. - - - ditto - - - -	3,000	-	-
	Ditto - 1834 - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	3,000	-	-
	Ditto - 1835, 1¾ per cent. - - - ditto - - - - -	2,625	-	-
	Ditto - 1836, ¾ per cent. - - - ditto - - - - -	2,625	-	-
	Ditto - 1837 - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	2,625	-	-
Bridge painted - - -	Ditto - 1838 - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	1,500	-	-
Ditto - - £. 100	Ditto - 1839, 1½ per cent. - - - ditto - - - - -	2,250	-	-
Ditto - - - 100	Ditto - 1840 - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	2,250	-	-
Liquidation Pier 1,300 Painted - - - 100	Ditto - 1841 - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	2,250	-	-
Liquidation Pier 37,693 Painted - - - 100	Ditto - 1842, 1¾ per cent. - - - ditto - - - - -	2,625	-	-
Liquidation Pier - 500 Painting - - - 100	Ditto - 1843, 1¾ - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	2,625	-	-
Closed and Liquidation Pier - - 200	Ditto - 1844, 1½ - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	2,250	-	-
Painting - - - 100	Ditto - 1845, 1½ - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	2,250	-	-
Painting - - - 100	Ditto - 1846, 1½ - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	2,250	-	-
Painting - - - 100	Ditto - 1847, 1½ - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	2,250	-	-
Painting - - - 100	Ditto - 1848, 1½ - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	2,250	-	-
Painting - - - 50	Ditto - 1849, 1¼ - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	1,875	-	-
Painting - - - 50	Ditto - 1850, 1 - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	1,500	-	-
	Ditto - 1851, 1 - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	1,500	-	-
Bridge Macadamising 250	Ditto - 1852, 1½ - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	2,250	-	-
	Ditto - 1853, 1 - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	1,500	-	-
	Ditto - 1854, 1 - ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	1,500	-	-

Appendix, No. 6.

LETTER from *G. Rennie*, Esq., to *B. Oliveira*, Esq., M.P., Chairman.

Appendix, No. 6.

Sir, London, 13 June 1854.

As the questions proposed to me by the Committee on the Metropolitan Bridges were confined to Southwark Bridge, I had not an opportunity of giving my opinion upon the subject generally.

The continual increase of the population and buildings on both sides of the river, as well as the large circulating traffic of the provinces, render the existing communications over the free bridges of London, Blackfriars and Westminster, totally inadequate. This inconvenience is greatly increased by the tolls on Southwark, Waterloo and Vauxhall Bridges, the abolishing of which would greatly relieve the pressure upon the three free bridges; but in every case other bridges would be required. The sites suited to them should divide the distances between the existing bridges as equally as circumstances will permit. The sites proposed in the plan of London, appended to the Third Parliamentary Report on Westminster Bridge in 1846, viz.:

1. Opposite the Horseferry in Church-street, Lambeth;
2. Charing-Cross Bridge and the Railway Station, near Waterloo Bridge, may answer.

Sites for bridges might also be chosen between Westminster and Waterloo Bridges, in a line from Lett's timber yard, Commercial-road, Lambeth, and Essex-street, Strand; between Blackfriars and Southwark, in a line with the south front of St. Paul's church, and the south-west corner of Holland-street; thus the distances between the bridges would be nearly equal.

The various streets leading to and from these bridges might be made to converge either at the Obelisk, St. George's Fields, or the Elephant and Castle.

As regards the state of the existing Metropolitan Bridges, I can speak with confidence of the bridges erected by our family, as having been constructed upon the best principles of science, both in their foundations and superstruction, and with reference to any changes which the bed of the river Thames might undergo by the removal of Old London Bridge. The foundations of their abutments and piers were carried down to the natural bed of London clay, lying beneath the gravel, by piles driven at equal intervals into the clay, and further secured from the action of the current by a continuous row of sheet piles all round them. So that it is absolutely impossible in the natural course of things that any alteration in the bed of the river can affect the foundations of those bridges. Unfortunately this is not the case with the foundations of either of Westminster or Blackfriars Bridges; the former having been laid in caissons in the bed of the river (without piles) and the latter in caissons on a small number of piles unprotected by sheet piles. The result has been what was predicted, and guarded against by the late Mr. Rennie in the foundations of his bridges. The removal of Old London Bridge by an excavation and lowering of the bed of the river under the bridges of Westminster and Blackfriars, and a failure in their superstructions, so as to occasion the necessity of their being rebuilt entirely, reasons which induced me to recommend their discontinuance in future in London.

As regards the nature and form in which any other new bridges should be built, I have no hesitation in repeating the words I uttered in my evidence given before the Committee on Westminster Bridge in 1846, namely, "that the form of the bridge should be in strict accordance with the best principles of science; that arches, both in theory and practice, should have a certain form; the segmental arch being the most scientific, and the elliptical the most elegant. That such a bridge as Westminster should be of stone, and have seven elliptical arches, as harmonising better with the architecture of the Houses of Parliament; but that Gothic arches were neither scientific nor suitable. That as regards material, I considered stone better suited and more dignified than iron for a metropolitan bridge. That, although iron had been adopted in the Southwark Bridge, it was principally on account of the narrowness and consequent rapidity of the river in that part. Iron was chosen as better adapted to the large spans which were required for the arches of that bridge.

I particularly objected to suspension bridges from their instability, and the continual tear and wear of their parts.

As regards the width of the bridges, particularly the extreme width proposed for Westminster, I think that 50 or 60 feet would have been ample, with the other bridges thrown open to the public. The lowness of the bridge and of its arches, and its extreme width, and its being constructed of iron, will always detract from the dignity which a metropolitan bridge ought to have.

Finally, whatever bridges may be erected in the metropolis, the character of their architecture should be simple and bold, and devoid of insignificant ornament, so that they shall represent the character as well as the wealth of the nation.

I remain, &c.

To Benjamin Oliveira, Esq., M.P., Chairman. (signed) *George Rennie.*

Appendix, No. 7.

LETTER from *T. Page*, Esq., to *B. Oliveira*, Esq., M. P., Chairman, referred to in his Evidence, 15 June 1854. Appendix, No. 7.

Thames Embankment Office, 2, Middle Scotland Yard,
May 1854.

Sir,

With reference to the inquiry by the Select Committee of the House of Commons upon the Metropolitan Bridges, and as to the best means of improving the communication across the river, I beg leave to lay before you, in addition to my evidence already given, the following observations.

There can be no doubt in the mind of any one acquainted with the traffic of London that more bridges are urgently required, but it appeared to be a question with the Committee whether new bridges should be built, or the toll bridges purchased and opened free to the public.

It is, however, manifest that the first object should be to provide communications across the river in the lines of direct traffic, because by that course not only would the distance and time between the central points of the traffic be reduced to a minimum, but the streets now subjected to a circuitous traffic would be relieved.

It would be superfluous to dwell upon the advantages of pursuing such a plan, the saving of time, labour, wear and tear of vehicles and streets, &c., because the Committee will instantly comprehend them.

It is also equally manifest, that the purchase of the toll bridges would not effect this object, for there are several main lines of streets leading to the river, which these bridges do not accommodate, and it is for avoiding circuitous routes that new bridges are required; and it may be added, that although a toll, like all direct taxes, is vexatious, yet by reference to the position of the toll bridges, it will be seen that the payment of toll is amply compensated for by the saving of distance which would be otherwise travelled in reaching a free bridge. Even in a common cab the payment of 2*d.* would save an additional 6*d.* in the fare, supposing the route by the toll bridge avoided the commencing another mile; and for heavy carriages, the saving by passing over a toll bridge is proportionably greater.

Moreover, the purchase of the toll bridges would require a considerable sum, which, if expended in providing new bridges, would give the public the accommodation urgently required, leaving them at the same time the option of the facilities offered by the toll bridges.

Reference to a plan of London will show that the sites which I suggested for new bridges for the West-end, viz., the neighbourhood of the Horseferry and Charing-cross, would unite leading lines of important traffic on each side of the river.

In the first case the distance between Chelsea and the Obelisk by the proposed new bridge, compared with the distance between the same points by Vauxhall Bridge, would be reduced 853 yards, and the distance from Chelsea to London Bridge would be reduced 500 yards; but for the object of avoiding purchase of property in houses on the Middlesex side, the site of the bridge, instead of being fixed at the Horseferry, might be advantageously changed to the Grosvenor Wharf (below the Penitentiary), with an approach on the Surrey side from Lambeth Walk.

By the formation of a bridge at Charing Cross, with approaches from the Nelson Column, Scotland Yard, and Whitehall, and by a road branching into the Waterloo-bridge Road, an almost direct line of road would be obtained from Trafalgar Square to the Obelisk, and the line of road through Whitehall, Parliament Street, and Bridge Street (Westminster and Lambeth) would be cleared of a traffic which, for want of a new bridge, is forced over Westminster Bridge, with great detriment and loss to the owners of carriages, and with danger to the public. It must have been observed by Members of the Committee that this great traffic and the neglect of the scavengers have, during great part of last winter, rendered this line between Charing Cross and Westminster Bridge one of the most crowded and dirty thoroughfares in London.

It will be evident to the Committee that a bridge at Charing Cross should be nearly at right angles to the line which the river will form under a proper plan of embankment, as whatever saving of distance might be obtained by a skew bridge, the extra expense of such a structure, and the injurious effect of its oblique lines upon the buildings on the shore, would offer grave objections to its adoption.

Since I gave evidence before the Committee, I have considered more particularly the question of additional bridges for the city and districts eastward of it, by which the traffic over London Bridge might be reduced, and I would submit the following remarks for the consideration of the Committee.

It will be seen that London Bridge forms the only passage for the traffic from one side of the river to the other for 16 square miles on each side of the river to the eastward of its site. It is not to be expected that any new bridge above London Bridge would relieve the latter of any portion of this traffic; for supposing such bridge unencumbered, the circuitous route to it from the eastward through already crowded thoroughfares, would prevent any attempt to reach it; but it is certain that if the means were provided for crossing the river below London Bridge this object would be effected, and London Bridge would then be found sufficient for the traffic due to it.

There could, however, be no bridge below the entrance to the St. Katherine's Docks, but it may be anticipated there could be no objections, as far as the navigation of the river is

Appendix, No. 7.

concerned, to a bridge westward of that entrance, and a good site for such a bridge will be found in the line of Tower Hill along the road adjoining the western warehouses of the St. Katherine's Dock, which road could be kept open for the present traffic, while it would afford an approach to the bridge above.

The elevation of this bridge would be regulated by the levels of its approaches on the Middlesex side, and by the requirements of the vessels which go up to London Bridge, so that all the vessels which lie above St. Katherine's would pass under the new bridge by striking their topmasts.

In order to accommodate this class of shipping, a bridge crossing the river at this point should be a suspension bridge of one span, (viz., 850 feet), and the piers supporting the chains should be on the line of the shore, so that the Upper Pool would not in the least degree be contracted by the piers.

I have ascertained by inquiry, that most of the vessels that come above Irongate Stairs would, when their topmasts are struck, pass under a bridge with a headway of 70 feet above Trinity high-water.

Taking this as the headway of the bridge, the approaches on the Middlesex side could be obtained at a gradient of 1 in 40, and the approach on the Surrey side by a similar gradient.

On the Middlesex side, the approach should be supported on isolated pillars or piers, and this system could be followed on the Surrey side until the intersection of the levels of the houses and the approach rendered it advisable to form a new street.

It should be stated, that the value of the property on the Surrey side would be increased considerably by such a communication.

Vide Plan (VII.)

The accompanying plan shows the proposed site for the bridge, and the connexion of its approaches with the streets on both sides of the river.

The approach on the Surrey side would be considerably longer than the approach on the Middlesex side, as the ground is on that side 28 feet lower than the level of Tower Hill.

At the easy gradient of 1 in 40, the approach on the Middlesex side would be 1,300 feet in length, and that on the Surrey side 2,400 feet.

To a person whose attention is first directed to the subject, it may appear a bold idea to propose a suspension bridge over the Upper Pool; but upon consideration of the important effects of such a structure upon the crowded thoroughfares of the city, it will appear surprising that such a work has been so long deferred.

Members of the Committee may have probably traversed the celebrated suspension bridge over the River Dordogne at Cubsac, near Bordeaux. This bridge, a wire bridge, is 1,800 feet in length over the river; its arched approaches are 1,650 feet in length, and its embanked approaches 3,557 feet in length; making a total length of bridge and approaches of 7,000 feet, or more than a mile and a quarter.

Its height above the water line is 93 feet; the levels of the ground, as compared with the river, resemble those of the ground on the Surrey side of the Thames. It replaced a ferry, where passengers and carriages were passed across the river by ferry-boat, causing a delay in the journey of a quarter to half an hour.

If it were thought sufficiently important to construct this bridge, to save the delay and inconvenience of a ferry, of how much greater importance is it to open the proposed means of communication across the river at St. Katherine's, in the midst of a populous commercial city, the traffic of which, for want of such a bridge, is too great for its present thoroughfares.

From an estimate I have made of such a structure, the expense of the bridge and approaches, without purchase of property, would be 450,000 *l.*; and I may add, that contracts for the Chelsea Bridge give me the best opportunity of coming to a right conclusion on this expense.

By the adoption of a different mode of suspension, the bridge could be made available for railways.

The formation of carriage approaches to the Thames Tunnel, situated 1½ mile below London Bridge, would open out an important line of communication across the river, and would relieve London Bridge to a great extent of its superabundant traffic.

The carriage-ways and footways of the tunnel and the descents for foot-passengers are completed, and that which is now required to make the tunnel a valuable thoroughfare is the means of descent for carriages on both sides of the river.

These might be formed either by the great circular shafts and spiral carriage-way, as designed by the great projector and engineer of the work, Sir Isambard Brunel, or might be obtained by steep inclined planes rising from the floor of the foot-passengers' shafts at the Rotherhithe and Wapping ends of the tunnel.

In this case, one of the archways of the tunnel and the two inclined planes would be adapted for a railway, and the traffic would be conducted along this line in carriages worked by steam power; this latter proceeding would be eventually most advantageous to the public and the proprietors, as it would lead to a junction of the railways on the north and south sides of the Thames.

Projects for accomplishing the connexion of the railways in this manner have been so far forwarded as to have led their promoters to deposit Parliamentary plans for them, and it may be anticipated that a work which reflects such credit upon its projector will ultimately take that position as a valuable thoroughfare, to which its engineering merits, its situation, and the facilities it would afford for meeting the increasing demands for traffic accommodation give it so strong a claim.

The formation of the great descents, 200 feet in diameter, as designed by Sir Isambard Brunel, would amount to 120,000 *l.* These would allow of the ascent and descent of carriages

riages along a spiral roadway, at 4 in 100. An increased diameter would, though attended by an increase of expense, reduce this gradient to one more adapted for the traffic.

If, however, aid were afforded by Government, to the extent, say, of 50,000 *l.*, the means of passing carriages through the tunnel could be provided, which would avoid the necessity of descending and ascending by horse power, and would prepare the tunnel for the formation of a junction between the railways on both sides of the river.

The tunnel has been opened 11 years, and in that period 12,456,563 passengers have passed through it, or 1,132,415 passengers per annum.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thos. Page.*

B. Oliveira, Esq., M. P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix, No. 8.

AN ACCOUNT of MONIES Received by the CORPORATION of *Kingston-upon-Thames*, in the County of *Surrey*, as Commissioners for re-building Kingston Bridge, between the 1st day of September 1852 and the 1st day of September 1853.

1852:		£.	s.	d.
	Balance due from the last year's account - - - -	516	8	2
September -	One year's fee farm rent, due from the Trustees of the Free Grammar School, to Michaelmas 1851 - -	1	–	–
1853:				
March 15	Mary Truelove Elmes, one year's fee farm rent to Michaelmas 1852 - - - - - - - - - -	3	–	–
August 2	The Representative of John Aspin, two years' rent to Michaelmas 1852 - - - - - - - - -	9	10	–
„ 13	William Miles, one year's rent for meadow, to Michaelmas 1852 - - - - - - - - - -	8	8	–
„ 16	The Trustees of Free Grammar School, one year's fee farm rent, to Michaelmas 1852 - - - - -	1	–	–
„ 18	John Edmonds, one year's rent for land, to Michaelmas 1852 - - - - - - - - - -	7	–	–
„ „	George Goldring, one year's fee farm rent for tenement, to Michaelmas 1852 - - - - - - -	1	5	–
„ „	Ditto, one year's fee farm rent for another tenement, to Michaelmas 1852 - - - - - - - -	1	15	–
„ 29	James Attfield, for two years' fee farm rent for garden, at Norbiton, to Michaelmas 1852 - - - - - -	4	–	–
„ „	William Kent, for three years' fee farm rent for cottages, in Old Bridge-street, Kingston, to Michaelmas 1852 -	4	–	–
„ 30	The Representatives of William Walton, for one year's rent, to Michaelmas 1852, for Bridge Barn - - -	30	–	–
„ „	The Treasurer of the Borough Fund, one year's fee farm rent for Clattern House, to Michaelmas 1852 - -	2	2	–
„ „	The like, for land at Hersham, to Michaelmas 1852 -	1	11	–
„ „	The like, for one year's rent for towing-path, to Michaelmas 1852 - - - - - - - - - -	24	–	–
„ „	The like, for Reed's Ayot, to Michaelmas 1852 - -	1	12	–
„ „	The like, for Warner's Ayot, to Michaelmas 1852 - -	4	4	–
„ „	The like, for Bridge Wharf, to Michaelmas 1852 - -	25	6	8
„ „	The Lessee of the Tolls of Kingston Bridge, one year's rent, to 1 September 1853 - - - - - -	2,200	–	–
	£.	2,846	1	10

Appendix, No. 8.

AN ACCOUNT of Monies Disbursed and Paid by the Corporation of *Kingston-upon-Thames*, in the County of *Surrey*, as Commissioners of Kingston Bridge, between the 1st day of September 1852 and the 1st day of September 1853.

		£.	s.	d.
1852: September 20	The Trustees of the Grammar School, one year's quit rent to Midsummer 1851	–	–	10
October 19	Mary Ann Squire, for one year's watering the Bridge Road	25	–	–
„ 25	Charles Edward Jemmett, as clerk to Commissioners. Law Expenses	34	9	–
„ 30	John Stanford, for flints for Bridge Road	9	–	–
November 8	Exchequer Bill Commissioners, an instalment of Bridge debt, and interest	489	9	1
1853: January 6	Lessees of Tolls, their expenses at the last letting	5	–	–
„ 25	One year's insurance of Bridge Barn to Christmas 1853	–	16	6
February 7	Exchequer Bill Commissioners, an instalment of principal and interest	491	1	–
March 13	Sarah Truelove Elmes, for one year's land-tax	–	8	–
April 6	W. E. Weston, for 57 loads of flints for Bridge and Bridge Road	31	7	–
May 18	Exchequer Bill Commissioners, an instalment for principal and interest	518	1	–
August 2	The representatives of John Aspin, two years' property-tax to Lady-day 1852	–	5	6
„ 13	William Miles, one year's land-tax and property-tax	–	9	8
„ „	Frederick Pyle, for 52 weeks' labour on Bridge Road to this day	15	12	–
„ 16	The Trustees of the Grammar School, one year's quit rent to Midsummer 1852	–	–	10
„ „	John Edmonds, one year's property-tax to Lady-day 1852	–	4	1
„ „	George Golding, one year's land-tax to Michaelmas 1852	–	5	–
„ „	Mary Stanford, for flints for Bridge Roads	–	18	–
„ „	George Golding, for smith's work at Toll-house	1	5	6
„ „	The Exchequer Bill Commissioners, an instalment for principal and interest	484	12	11
„ 18	Edward Stevens, for brooms	–	10	4
„ 19	The Gas Company, one year's lighting the Bridge lamps, to 1st May 1853	39	7	6
„ 25	Samuel Mason the younger, for carpenter's work at the Toll-house	1	1	3
„ 27	Henry Selfe, for glazing and plumber's work there	1	11	6
„ „	Henry Walker, for plasterer's work there	–	8	–
„ „	The representatives of William Walker, for a year's land and property-tax on Bridge Barn, to Michaelmas 1852	2	1	8
„ „	The Treasurer of the Borough Fund, for one year's property-tax on Clattern-house, to Michaelmas 1852	–	1	2
„ „	The like on Hersham land, to Michaelmas 1852	–	–	11
„ „	The like on towing-path, to Michaelmas 1852	–	14	–
„ „	The like on Reed's Ayte, to Michaelmas 1852	–	2	5
„ „	The like on the other Ayte, to Michaelmas 1852	–	–	11
„ „	The like on Bridge wharf, to Michaelmas 1852	–	14	9
„ „	To sundries, stamps, &c.	–	8	9
	£.	2,155	9	1

Appendix, No. 9.

PUTNEY.

Appendix, No. 9.

At a public meeting of the Inhabitants specially called, and held at the Vestry Room, on the 28th June 1854.

A. E. Dryden, Esq., Churchwarden, was voted in the Chair.

Read the notice convening the meeting.

Read the copy Petition to the House of Commons of the 4th May 1854.

It was proposed by Mr. *Reed* and seconded by Mr. *William Aviss*, "That this meeting considers a County Rate preferable in lieu of a Coal Tax, which would be objectionable unless a portion of the Coal Tax already leviable and received by the Corporation of London be applied towards the redemption of Putney Bridge tolls, as well as the tolls of the other Metropolitan Bridges."

(signed) *Alfred E. Dryden*,
Chairman.

Appendix, No. 10.

Appendix, No. 10.

TO the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, in the County of Surrey, the Trustees of Kingston Bridge,

Showeth,

That your petitioners are the commissioners for the management of Kingston Bridge, and as such commissioners, under the authority of the Acts of Parliament relating to their trusts, in the year 1831 borrowed of the Exchequer Bill Commissioners, on loan, the sum of 40,000*l.* for the erection of the said bridge, and subsequently a further sum of 8,000*l.*, as the produce of the tolls of the said bridge, were borrowed by your petitioners of the said Loan Commissioners for the necessary approaches to the said bridge.

That your petitioners have out of the tolls of the said bridge repaid to the said Loan Commissioners the sum of 13,000*l.*, together with the arrears of interest on the said debt to the present time, leaving the balance of the said loan to amount to the sum of 35,000*l.* as due to the said Loan Commissioners.

That it appears by the several charters and other documents affecting Kingston Bridge, that from at least the period of the reign of Queen Elizabeth until the year 1829, the said bridge was free of toll to all persons having occasion to pass over the same between the counties of Middlesex and Surrey.

That from the ruinous condition of the late bridge, then built of wood, your petitioners were obliged to construct the present bridge in the year 1829, and for the raising of the costs for the erection of the same they were empowered to borrow the amount above mentioned.

That the tolls levied upon the public for passing over the bridge amount to the annual sum of 2,000*l.*, or thereabouts, of which two-thirds are defrayed by foot passengers, many of whom are mechanics and labourers, passing to and from their work at the respective sides of the River Thames, and which has always been felt as a great burthen to them.

That the said bridge forms the approach from the county of Surrey to the Royal palace and park of Hampton Court and the Royal domain of Bushey Park; that the same, through the bounty of the Crown, are free and open to the inspection and enjoyment of the public, but the toll payable on this bridge detracts from the entire freedom of the public in their access to these Royal properties.

That the debt now chargeable on the bridge is strictly due to the Crown, as the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues are the sureties to the Exchequer Bill Commissioners for the repayment of the said loan by the said Bridge Commissioners, and consequently should the Legislature think proper to free the said bridge from such debt, there would not be any amount of money to be advanced for the discharge of the said debt.

That the trustees of the said bridge are seised of certain estates, amounting in value to the

Appendix, No. 10.

the annual sum of 100*l.*, or thereabouts, which could be applied to the future maintenance of the same bridge, as respects the necessary reparation thereof.

That the bridge and the approaches thereto, are situate within the Metropolitan Police district.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to allow the subject of Kingston Bridge to be referred to the Committee appointed by your Honourable House to consider the circumstances attending the Metropolitan Bridges as respects the freeing of them from toll.

(L. S.)

TO the Right Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Freeholders and Inhabitants of Kingston-upon-Thames, in the County of Surrey, and of Hampton, Hampton Court, and Hampton Wick, in the County of Middlesex,

Showeth,

THAT for several hundred years prior to the year 1829, a free bridge existed between Kingston and Hampton Wick, connecting the counties of Middlesex and Surrey. That such bridge became unsafe for public traffic; and, under an Act of Parliament, passed in the year 1825, a new bridge was erected at a cost of 45,000*l.*, and a toll placed on such bridge.

That, by means of such toll, the interest of the money borrowed for the purpose from Her Majesty's Treasury has been constantly paid, and a sum exceeding 13,000*l.* paid off the capital; and it is calculated that with the present rate of toll the remainder of the capital and interest could not be obtained from the toll for 35 years, which would inflict on the locality for a period of nearly 65 years, past and future, a toll for the advantage of the public at large.

That at a public meeting, numerously attended, of freeholders and inhabitants of the borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, and of Hampton, Hampton Court, and Hampton Wick, held at the Town Hall in Kingston, on the 14th of March instant, it was unanimously resolved, "That the restriction on the free intercourse necessary to the welfare of society, and to the free competition of trade, arising from the toll on Kingston Bridge, is a tax of a most objectionable nature, which falls chiefly on the locality, and in a very large proportion on the poor, and that the passage across the Thames at all convenient points for the use of the public should be provided for by the public at large, or by the counties connected by the bridges, or from some broader basis than by fixing tolls upon any particular neighbourhood; and that a petition to your Honourable House be presented, praying that the Committee, appointed upon the motion of Mr. Oliveira on the 24th day of February last, on the subject of the Metropolitan Bridges, be directed to extend their inquiry, and report as to all the toll-paying bridges connecting the counties of Middlesex and Surrey.

Your petitioners, therefore, respectfully approach your Honourable House, feeling that the grievance inflicted on the neighbourhood, and more particularly between the ancient town of Kingston and the Royal palace of Hampton Court, is one that should be removed, and they earnestly implore your Honourable House to take such measures as may seem to you likely to attain so desirable an end.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Frederick Gould, Mayor.
Edward Phillips.
H. J. Fricker.

TO the Right Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Freeholders and Inhabitants of Hampton, in the County of Middlesex, and of the Neighbourhood,

Showeth,

THAT by virtue of an Act of Parliament of the 23d year of the reign of King George the Second, the toll on Hampton Court Bridge is redeemable by the Crown on payment of the original cost of the erection of such bridge.

That at a public meeting of freeholders and inhabitants of Hampton aforesaid, and of the neighbourhood, held on the 3d of June 1854, it was unanimously resolved,—

First. "That the restriction on the free intercourse necessary to the welfare of society, and to the enjoyment of the residents of Hampton Court Palace, and to the free competition of trade in the neighbourhood, arising from the toll on Hampton Court Bridge, is a tax of a most objectionable nature, which falls chiefly on the locality, and in a large proportion on the poor, and that the free passage across the Thames at all convenient places should be provided by the public at large, or by the counties adjacent, or from some broader basis than by toll."

Secondly.

Secondly. "That the bridge itself is in a wretched condition, and also the approaches, and the obstruction arising from the toll-gate leads to considerable danger and many accidents; that the toll is much heavier than at Kingston Bridge and many other bridges on the Thames, and that, regarding the difference in the value of money since the reign of King George the Second, and the large increase of traffic, the present toll will probably be found to pay from 20 to 30 per cent. per annum, or more, on the amount for which redemption may be obtained; and that by the exercise of the above-mentioned power, reserved for such purpose by the Legislature, an accumulation would arise in a few years which, from the toll itself, would discharge and satisfy the principal and three per cent. interest."

Thirdly. "That inasmuch as Hampton Court is within the metropolitan district, the inquiries of the Committee of the House of Commons, appointed on the motion of Mr. Oliveira, on the 24th of February last, upon the subject of the Metropolitan Bridges, should embrace Hampton Court Bridge; but to prevent all doubt on the subject, that a petition be presented to the House of Commons, praying that such Committee be directed to inquire and report upon the expediency of throwing open all the bridges on the Thames connecting Middlesex and Surrey; and also as to the original cost of Hampton Court Bridge, and the annual revenue now derived by the owners of the bridge, and into the question whether, if all the bridges are not to be made free, it is not desirable for the Crown to redeem Hampton Court Bridge, and make it free, so soon as the price of redemption, with interest, has been derived from the toll."

Your petitioners, therefore, most respectfully approach your Honourable House, feeling that the grievance inflicted on their neighbourhood, and more particularly between the Royal Palace of Hampton Court and the railway station at East Moulsey, is one that should be removed, and they earnestly implore your Honourable House to refer this petition to the Committee appointed by your Honours on the 24th of February last, and that such Committee may be empowered and directed to inquire and report to your Honourable House in particular as to the allegations contained in this petition, and the relief sought as to Hampton Court Bridge, and that you will take such measures to that end as may seem to your Honourable House to be consistent with justice, and expedient in the matter.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Charles Woodward, B.C.L.,
Curate of East Moulsey.
George Lynn, M.A.,
Incumbent of Hampton Wick.
F. J. Kent,
Castle House, Hampton.

TO the Right Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Freeholders, Copyholders, Bondholders, and Inhabitants of the Towns of Staines, in the County of Middlesex, and Egham, in the County of Surrey,

Showeth,

That during the last century the towns of Staines and Egham have largely contributed by tolls towards the erection and support of no less than five bridges across the River Thames at Staines, within the jurisdiction of the City of London, connecting the counties of Middlesex and Surrey.

That the tolls of such several bridges, except the present, were moderate, and the inhabitants of the towns of Staines and Egham were exempt from any toll on passing the bridge on horseback, whereas by the Act for building the present bridge the tolls are doubled on carriages, and the exemption to the inhabitants taken away, and the two towns rendered liable to the City tax on coals.

That the expense of building the former bridges, and the charges remaining thereon, were nearly all discharged, one or two small annuities only remaining; but the last bridge having been considered unsafe the present bridge was erected and opened in the year 1832, which, with approaches, cost a sum of upwards of 80,000*l.*, raised upon the security of the tolls (producing 4,000*l.* per annum), upon bonds bearing interest at 4*l.* 10*s.* per annum, no part of which said sum has ever been paid off.

That in consequence of the establishment of railroads the very great public traffic formerly passing through the towns of Staines and Egham to the West of England (and to the great benefit of both the towns) has been entirely removed, whereby the bonds and securities on the tolls of such bridge are now at almost a nominal price, and the interest paid on such bonds reduced to a small fraction over 1*l.* per cent.

That a railway is now in construction between Staines and Egham, which will materially lessen the tolls on the said bridge.

That the two important counties of Middlesex and Surrey have little reason to complain of the burden of bridges across the River Thames, there being at this time only one free bridge from the extreme borders of the two counties at Staines to Westminster Bridge.

Appendix, No. 10.

That it has been calculated that a very small rate on the two counties of Middlesex and Surrey would be sufficient to throw open all the bridges paying toll between the said counties, and to settle the several securities now charged thereon.

Your petitioners, therefore, most humbly pray that the Committee appointed on the 24th February last, on the subject of the Metropolitan Bridges, may be directed to extend their inquiry, and report as to all the bridges, paying toll, connecting the counties of Middlesex and Surrey, with a view of removing the burden of such tolls.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

Robert Godell, Vicar.
Thomas Ashby, Banker.
Frederick Ashby, Banker.

TO the Right Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Putney, at a large Public Meeting assembled the 4th day of May 1854,

Showeth,

That Putney and Fulham Bridge was erected in the year 1729, at a cost of 23,975*l.*, including 8,000*l.* paid as compensation to the owners of the horse and foot ferries then existing between the said places, Putney and Fulham, and that a toll was placed on such bridge.

That the property of the said bridge was afterwards transferred to 30 subscribers of 1,000*l.* each.

That the said bridge is dangerous to life and obstructive to navigation, and has been repeatedly condemned by the conservators of the Thames, and the tolls thereof are excessive, being sixpence for a carriage and one horse, and so in proportion for every additional horse, and one shilling and sixpence for a team of four horses, and the other carriage tolls are of a like excessive nature.

That at the said meeting it was unanimously resolved, "That it is very desirable that all obstructions to easy and cheap communication between the populous districts upon both sides of the Thames in the neighbourhood of London should, so far as practicable, be removed, and that all reasonable facilities for free intercourse and the encouragement of trade between the inhabitants of those districts should be afforded."

"That the tolls leviable upon Putney Bridge are very heavy, and present a great impediment to communication between a large portion of the county of Surrey and London, as well as between the districts immediately adjacent to Putney Bridge, and the liability to pay such tolls upon crossing Putney Bridge tends to divert traffic and trade from the parishes of Fulham and Putney into other channels, whereby great injury is occasioned to the inhabitants of those parishes, and the prosperity of those parishes materially affected and the value of property materially diminished."

And "that such toll is demanded upon every occasion of crossing and recrossing such bridge, and on Sundays the foot toll is double, to the great inconvenience of the public."

And "that a Petition to your Honourable House be presented, praying that the Committee appointed upon the motion of Mr. Oliveira, of February last, on the subject of the Metropolitan Bridges, be directed to extend their inquiry, and report as to all the toll-paying bridges connecting the counties of Middlesex and Surrey, and particularly as to Putney and Fulham Bridges."

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your Honourable House will be pleased to adopt such measures for the abolition of such tolls, and if possible the removal of the present and the erection of a new and more convenient bridge, as shall appear to your Honourable House to be most beneficial to the public at large, consistently with a due regard to the vested interests of the proprietors of the present bridge.

Alfred E. Dryden,
As Chairman, on behalf of the said Meeting.

TO the Right Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Freeholders and Inhabitants of East Moulsey, in the County of Surrey, and of the Neighbourhood,

Showeth,

That by virtue of an Act of Parliament of the 23d year of the reign of King George the Second, the toll on Hampton Court Bridge is redeemable by the Crown on payment of the original cost of the erection of such bridge.

That at a public meeting of freeholders and inhabitants of East Moulsey aforesaid, and of the neigbbourhood, held on the 3d of June 1854, it was unanimously resolved:

First,

First, "That the restriction on the free intercourse necessary to the welfare of society, and to the enjoyment of the residents of Hampton Court Palace, and to the free competition of trade in the neighbourhood, arising from the toll on Hampton Court Bridge, is a tax of a most objectionable nature, which falls chiefly on the locality, and in a large proportion on the poor, and that the free passage across the Thames at all convenient places should be provided by the public at large, or by the counties adjacent, or from some broader basis than by toll.

Secondly, "That the bridge itself is in a wretched condition, and also the approaches, and the obstruction arising from the toll-gate leads to considerable danger and many accidents; that the toll is much heavier than at Kingston Bridge and many other bridges on the Thames, and that, regarding the difference in the value of money since the reign of King George the Second, and the large increase of traffic, the present toll will probably be found to pay from 20 to 30 per cent. per annum, or more, on the amount for which redemption may be obtained; and that by exercise of the above mentioned power, reserved for such purpose by the Legislature, an accumulation would arise in a few years, which from the toll itself would discharge and satisfy the principal and three per cent. interest."

Thirdly. "That inasmuch as Hampton Court is within the metropolitan district, the inquiries of the Committee of the House of Commons, appointed on the motion of Mr. Oliveira, the 24th of February last, upon the subject of the Metropolitan Bridges, should embrace Hampton Court Bridge; but to prevent all doubt on the subject, that a petition be presented to the House of Commons praying that such Committee be directed to inquire and report upon the expediency of throwing open all the bridges on the Thames connecting Middlesex and Surrey, and also as to the original cost of Hampton Court Bridge, and the annual revenue now derived by the owners of the bridge, and into the question whether, if all the bridges are not to be made free, it is not desirable for the Crown to redeem Hampton Court Bridge, and make it free, so soon as the price of redemption, with interest, has been derived from the toll."

Your petitioners, therefore, most respectfully approach your Honourable House, feeling that the grievance inflicted on their neighbourhood, and more particularly between the Royal Palace of Hampton Court and the railway station at East Moulsey, is one that should be removed; and they earnestly implore your Honourable House to refer this petition to the Committee appointed by your Honors on the 24th of February last, and that such Committee may be empowered and directed to inquire and report to your Honourable House in particular as to the allegations contained in this petition, and the relief sought as to Hampton Court Bridge, and that you will take such measures to that end as may seem to your Honourable House to be consistent with justice and expedient in the matter.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Charles Woodward, B.C.L.,
Curate of East Moulsey.
George Lynn, M.A.,
Incumbent of Hampton, Wick.
J. Kent,
Castle House, Hampton.
&c. &. &c.

TO the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Fulham, in Public Meeting assembled, the 20th of April 1854,

Showeth,

THAT in the year 1729 a bridge was erected between Putney and Fulham at a cost of 23,975*l.*, including 8,000*l.* paid as an indemnity for the horse and foot ferries then existing between the said places, Putney and Fulham, and that a toll was placed on such bridge.

That the property of the said bridge was afterwards transferred to 30 subscribers of 1,000*l.* each.

That at a public meeting (numerously attended) of freeholders and inhabitants of Fulham, held at Walham Green, in the said parish of Fulham, on the 20th April 1854, it was unanimously resolved,

"That the said bridge is dangerous to navigation, and has been repeatedly condemned by the conservators of the Thames.

"That the restriction on the free intercourse necessary to the welfare of society and to the free competition of trade, arising from the toll on Putney Bridge, is a tax of a most objectionable nature, which falls chiefly on the locality, and in a very large proportion on the poor; and that the passage across the Thames, at all convenient points for the use of the public, should be provided for by the public at large, or by the counties connected by the bridges, or from some broader basis than by fixing tolls upon any particular neighbourhood;" and

That a petition to your Honourable House be presented, praying that the Committee, appointed upon the motion of Mr. Oliveira on the 24th of February last, on the subject of the Metropolitan Bridges, be directed to extend their inquiry, and report as to all the toll-paying bridges connecting the counties of Middlesex and Surrey."

Appendix, No. 10.

Your petitioners, therefore, respectfully approach your Honourable House, feeling that the grievance inflicted on the neighbourhood of the bridges, and more particularly between Putney and Fulham, is one that should be removed, and they earnestly implore your Honourable House to take such measures (with due regard to the vested interest of the proprietors of the said bridge) as may seem likely to attain so desirable an end.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Ranelagh, Chairman of the Meeting.

Appendix, No. 11.

PAPER delivered in by Mr. *John Guy*, 22 June 1854.

Appendix, No. 11.

EXTRACT from an Act for building a Bridge cross the River Thames, from Hampton Court, in the County of Middlesex, to East Moulsey, in the County of Surrey. 23d George 2d, 1749.

"Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if at the expiration of the term of years (twenty-six) for and during which the said James Clarke is by virtue of the said letters patent, bearing date the 12th day of March, in the 29th year of the reign of King Charles the Second, intitled to the possession of the manor of East Moulsey, with the appurtenances, and of that passage of water upon the River Thames called Hampton Court Ferry, or at any time thereafter, his Majesty, his heirs, or successors, shall cause to be advanced and paid unto the said James Clarke, his heirs, or assigns, all such sum and sums of money, as he and they shall have advanced, paid, and expended, for and upon account of the procuring and passing of this Act, and for and upon account of erecting, maintaining, and supporting the said bridge, and preserving and improving the said navigation, and all such sum and sums of money as he and they shall have advanced, paid, and expended, for and upon account of the purchase of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, as aforesaid, and also for and on account of doing and performing all such other matters and things as are hereinbefore authorized to be done and performed; and shall also cause to be discharged and satisfied all such demands, contracts, and debts (together with all interest due thereon) as shall be standing out, and remaining unsatisfied, for and upon account of erecting and maintaining the said bridge, and of doing and performing the several other matters and things aforesaid; then, and in such case, all the right, title, interest, and property of the said James Clarke, his heirs and assigns, of, in, and to the said bridge, and the tolls and duties hereby granted to him and them, for pontage or passage over the same, shall cease and determine; and that from thenceforth the property of the said bridge shall be, and is hereby vested in his Majesty, his heirs and successors for ever; anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding."

Appendix, No. 12.

Appendix, No. 12.

PAPER furnished by Mr. *S. S. Tayler.*

STATEMENT of the INCOME and PROPERTY of BATTERSEA BRIDGE.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1842:						
Gross amount of tolls for the year - - - -	4,445	11	1			
Expenditure for ditto - - - - - -	1,160	6	5			
Net produce of tolls for 1842 - - - -				3,285	4	8
FUNDED PROPERTY:						
£. 2,000 new 3½ per cents.						
£. 8,234. 3 *s.* 6 *d.* 3 per cent. consols.						
£. 1,000 Exchequer Bill.						
Producing per annum - - - - -				317	–	–
LANDED PROPERTY:						
About six acres of land adjoining the bridge on the Surrey side, the greater part of which is covered with buildings, chiefly manufacturing premises, and the Swan Tavern, let for terms which will expire in the year 1881, at annual ground rents amounting to - - - -				90	–	–
TOTAL INCOME - - -				3,692	4	8

During

During the ensuing year the executors of a deceased proprietor had to dispose of a share, or one-13th of the interest in the tolls and other properties connected with Battersea Bridge; this was sold by public auction for 6,600 *l.*, which is the latest sale of a share. (This sale took place in the month of August 1843, though the conveyance was not executed till some time afterwards, which led to the year 1844 being erroneously mentioned in the evidence as the date of the sale.) Appendix, No. 12.

1853:	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Gross amount of tolls for the year	6,071	10	7
Expenditure for ditto	843	10	7
Net produce of tolls for 1853 £.	5,228	–	–

A sum of 345 *l.* 10 *s.* 6 *d.* was expended this year in building a new house for the check clerk, and of 50 *l.* last year, which may be considered as an addition to invested capital, and is not included in the above item for expenditure.

The funded and landed properties are but little altered. The income arising from them remains at nearly the same amount as in 1842.

Stephen S. Tayler.

Battersea, 13 July 1854.

Appendix, No. 13.

HUNGERFORD BRIDGE.

Appendix, No. 13.

[Explanation of Plans delivered in by *P. P. Baly*, Esq.—Evidence, 21 June 1854, p. 102.]

Drawing No. 1, is a general plan and section of the bridge, showing the proposed approaches and the level of the same with reference to existing thoroughfares, and the height of the bridge above Trinity Standard high-water mark. *Vide* Plan (VIII.) at the end.

North Approach.—Upon reference to this drawing, it will be seen that the north approach commences at the Strand (opposite Duncannon-street and Adelaide-street, which skirt the east and south sides of St. Martin's Churchyard), and is carried along Hungerford-street, which it is proposed to widen to 60 feet by throwing back the shops, for which facilities exist. This approach then crosses the present open space in the market, and passing through the centre of the hall of the market, will require the removal of a few stalls and a large room which has been erected within the last few years for public exhibitions, but at present is not tenanted. It then crosses over the erection in the lower area of the market, which is at present used as a singing room or saloon in connexion with the Swan Tavern, and then reaches the bridge.

The Bridge.—It is proposed to make the bridge 48 feet wide, as shown upon Drawing No. 2, the carriageway being in the centre, with a footway on either side of it. The sectional area of the chains will be sufficient to sustain the greatest load which can be placed on the bridge, situated as it is in the middle of the metropolis; and the flooring will be trussed, so as to prevent vibration, by wrought-iron trusses placed on each side of the footways, and running longitudinally along the whole length of the bridge. *Vide* Plan (IX.) at the end.

The Pesth Bridge, built by the late Mr. Tierney Clarke, is a carriage suspension bridge, with a centre span within 10 feet the same as that of the Charing-cross Bridge, and is the only means of communication between the towns of Pesth and Buda, which, together, have a population of upwards of 100,000. The stability of this bridge was most severely tested during the Hungarian Revolution in 1849, both the Hungarian and Austrian armies passing over the bridge with all their artillery and baggage trains, and this occurred before the bridge was finished or the roadway trussed.

The piers of the present bridge can be easily modified above the level of the cutwaters, so as to suit the increased width of the new bridge; additional rollers will have to be placed on the piers, with a similar arrangement to that already existing, and which has been found to answer most efficiently in preserving the equilibrium of the bridge, as was fully tried upon the occasion of His Royal Highness Prince Albert passing under the bridge on his way to the City to open the Coal Exchange, when the bridge was densely crowded with people.

South Approach.—The south approach commences at the river face of the present south abutment, and will also be 60 feet wide; continuing on from the bridge, it will pass over the

Appendix, No. 13.

the Belvidere-road by a bridge, and join the York-road opposite the present offices of the South-Western Railway Company, at a point intermediate between Vine-street and Sutton-street. The line of this approach is now in course of execution by the Company, under Parliamentary powers for forming the same, the capital for which has been subscribed, and is paid up, with the exception only of the last call.

In determining upon the spot where the south approach should join the York-road, it has been selected in reference to the proposed extension of the Waterloo Station of the South-Western Railway to the York-road, to the site coloured pink on Plan No. 4, and also to an eventual communication with the Westminster-road.

Vide Plan (XI.) at the end.

In the event of the line of street from Westminster Bridge to the Town Hall, Southwark, being formed, no difficulty whatever exists in connecting it with the south approach of the bridge, as is shown by the dotted *pink* lines on Drawing No. 4.

Vide Plan (XI.) at the end.

In reference to the inclination of the approaches at the north approach, there is an inclination of 1 in 50 in Hungerford-street, and the remainder of the approach is on a level.

At the south approach the inclination between the bridge and the Belvidere-road is 1 in 70, and from the Belvidere-road to the York-road 1 in 40. The inclination of the south approach to the Waterloo Bridge varies from 1 in 35 to 1 in 39.

Approach from Whitehall.—Should it be thought desirable to make a communication from the north approach to Scotland Yard and Whitehall, it can be made with facility in the direction of the dotted lines shown upon Drawing No. 4. The inclination of this approach would be about 1 in 60.

Vide Plan (XI.) at the end.

The Middlesex approach to the bridge from St. Martin's Church has, however, been selected in preference to an approach in a more westerly direction, on grounds both of public convenience and diminished outlay. Hungerford-street is not only within 100 yards of the Trafalgar-square Post-office, but the two important openings opposite Hungerford-street, and skirting St. Martin's Churchyard, lead direct to the upper part of Trafalgar-square, and *viâ* St. Martin's-lane, to Oxford-street and the north of London, and thus must instantaneously relieve the Strand from a very large portion of the traffic to or from the bridge.

As far as the market is concerned, the only erections to be entirely removed are the two rooms which have been erected in the centre of the market, as above explained (one only of which is at present occupied), and a few stalls, the houses in Hungerford-street being set back as shown, and the residue of the market will remain untouched, but of course applicable for trading and business purposes of a higher character; and thus it is assumed the rental of the Market Company will be increased, and the property generally benefited.

Cost.

The estimated cost of the alteration of the bridge is,—

	£.
For works - - - - - - - - - -	104,000
For approaches - - - - - - - - -	52,000
TOTAL - - - £.	156,000

PLAN SHOWING SITE OF PROPOSED BRIDGES, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND LAW COURTS, WITH OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER.

Scale.– Twelve Inches to One Statute Mile.

PLAN (II.)

METROPOLITAN SUPER-WAY.

(No 1.)

B. P. Wilmot Del.

Designed by J. Sym.

LINE FROM BLACKWALL STATION, FENCHURCH STREET, TO CHARING-CROSS, AS SEEN FROM THE SURREY SIDE OF RIVER THAMES.

Lith. 36, Old Jewry

No 370. Ordered, by The House of Commons to be printed, 14th July, 1854.

Henry Hansard, Print

PLAN (III.)

METROPOLITAN SUPER-WAY.

(Nº 2.)

SINGLE COLUMN.

B P. Wilme. Del.t

DETAILED ELEVATION.

Designed by J. Sym.

J. Standridge & Co. Litho, 36, Old Jewry

Nº 370. Ordered, by The House of Commons to be printed, 14th July, 1854.

Henry Hansard Printer.

PLAN (IV.)

METROPOLITAN SUPER-WAY.
(Nº 3)

VIEW OF LINE CROSSING THE THAMES FROM SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY STATION, TO BLACKWALL, & EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY STATION, BELOW LONDON BRIDGE.

B. P. Wilmot Del.

Designed by J. Sym.

Standidge & Cº Lithº 36 Old Jewry

Nº 370. Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed, 14th July, 1854.
Henry Hansard, Printer.

REGENTS PARK

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS.

CHESTER ROAD

PARK ROAD

ALSOP'L PL.

UPPER BAKER ST

NEW ROAD

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

UPPER ALBANY STREET

ALBANY STREET

REGENTS CANAL BASIN

HAMPSTEAD ROAD

STANHOPE STREET

MUNSTER SQUARE

OSNABURGH STREET

BROOK STREET

EUSTON SQUARE STATION

UPPER CLARENDON STREET

CLARENDON SQUARE

SEYMOUR PLACE

CARDINGTON STREET

OLD SAINT PANCRAS ROAD

OSSULSTON STREET

CHARLTON STREET

NEW ROAD

KING'S CROSS STATION

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY

BATTLE BRDG.

CALEDONIAN ROAD

PROPOSED NEW LINE TO CONNECT THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

WARREN STREET

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

GOWER STREET

GOWER PLACE

TAVISTOCK PL

GREAT CORAM ST

RUSSELL SQUARE

GUILFORD STREET

GREAT ORMOND STREET

QUEEN SQUARE

BRUNSWICK SQ.

MONTAGUE PLACE

KEPPEL STREET

BEDFORD PLACE

SOUTHAMPTON ROW

BLOOMSBURY SQUARE

RED LION SQ

HOLBORN

NEW OXFORD STREET

HIGH STREET

BROAD STREET

DRURY LANE

GT WILD STREET

BOW STREET

COVENT GARDEN

MAIDEN LANE

STRAND

WELLINGTON STREET

BRIDGES ST

KING STREET

HENRIETTA ST

TOTTENHAM COURT

ALFRED PLACE

STORE STREET

CHENIES ST

FRANCIS ST

ALFRED STR

GOODGE STREET

PERCY STR

CHARLOTTE ST

WINDMILL STREET

BEDFORD SQUARE

CAROLINE MEWS

CAMBRIDGE ST

RUSSELL MEWS

GREAT BLOOMSBURY STR

MANCHESTER ST

CROMER STREET

HARRISON STR

REGENT SQ

GRAYS INN ROAD

SAMPSON STREET

CALEDONIAN BASIN

OLD SAINT PANCRAS ROAD

BATTLE BRDG

BAGNIGGE

MARYLEBONE ROAD

PORTLAND PLACE

CAVENDISH SQUARE

LANCHAM PLACE

REGENT STREET

MARGARET STREET

CASTLE STREET EAST

WILLIS ST

OXFORD STREET

GREAT MARLBOROUGH ST

POLAND STREET

ARGYLL STREET

ARGYLL PLACE

PRINCES ST

HANOVER ST

HANOVER SQUARE

BROOK ST

GEORGE STREET

MADDOX STREET

CONDUIT STREET

NEW BOND STREET

SOUTH MOLTON STREET

DAVIES STREET

CROSVENOR STREET

CROSVENOR SQUARE

CROSVENOR MEWS

MOUNT ROW

ADAMS MEWS

MOUNT STREET

BRUTON STREET

BERKELEY SQUARE

CRAFTON ST

ALBEMARLE STREET

OLD BOND STREET

BURLINGTON GARDENS

HAY HILL

DOVER STREET

BERKELEY STREET

STRATTON STREET

BOLTON STREET

CLARGES STREET

HALF MOON STREET

WHITE HORSE ST

CLIFFORD STREET

SAVILLE ROW

GUNN STREET

REGENTS QUADRANT

REGENT CIRCUS

SACKVILLE STREET

PICCADILLY

JERMYN STREET

YORK STREET

HAYMARKET

RECENT STREET

WATERLOO PLACE

PALL MALL EAST

TRAFALGAR SQUARE

COCKSPUR ST

CHARING CROSS

PALL MALL

SAINT JAMES'S STREET

SAINT JAMES'S SQUARE

KING STREET

DUKE STREET

BURY STREET

THE QUEENS WALK

THE MALL

SAINT JAMES'S PARK

WHITEHALL

CHARLES STREET

PARLIAMENT STREET

GREAT GEORGE STREET

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE

BIRD CAGE WALK

BROAD SANCTUARY

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

TOTHILL STREET

BROADWAY

ST MARGARET STREET

WESTMINSTER HALL

NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

OLD PALACE YD

ABINGDON STREET

MILLBANK ST

DEANS YARD

GT COLLEGE STREET

GT PETER STREET

WOOD STREET

MARSHAM STR

SMITH SQUARE

ARTILLERY ROW

VICTORIA STREET

VICTORIA ROAD

ARABELLA ROW

VICTORIA SQUARE

LOWER COSVENOR PL

CROSVENOR STREET WEST

BREWER STRY

LOWER EATON ST

BELGRAVE ST SOUTH

EATON SQUARE LOWER BELGRAVE ST

UPPER ECCLESTON STREET

ECCLESTON STREET

EATON PLACE

CHESHAM PLACE

CHESHAM STREET

PONT STREET

SLOANE STREET

CADOGAN PLACE

LOWNDES SQUARE

WILTON CRESCENT

WILTON PLACE

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

HALKIN STREET

BELGRAVE MEWS

CHAPEL STREET

GLOUCESTER TER

CHESTER STREET

CHESTER MEWS

WILTON STREET

HALKIN STREET WEST

MOTCOMB STREET

BELGRAVE SQUARE

CONSTITUTION HILL

HYDE PARK CORNER

ROTTEN ROW

KING ROAD

PARK LANE

GREEN PARK

PALACE GARDENS

SAINT JAMES'S PARK

JAMES STREET

CATHERINE ST

PALACE STREET

CHARLOTTE ST

ST CHAPEL STREET

YORK STREET

ORCHARD STREET

PALACE YD

PALACE MEWS

PARIS ST

HUNGERFORD BRIDGE

RIVER

CHARING CROSS

WHITEHALL

WESTMINSTER

SOHO SQUARE

CARLISLE ST

DEAN STREET

QUEEN STREET

GREEK STREET

FRITH STREET

SOHO STREET

OLD COMPTON ST

LITCHFIELD STREET

PORTER ST

GRAFTON STREET

GERRARD STREET

KING STREET

RUPERT STREET

PRINCES ST

ARCHER ST

BEAK STREET

BROWER

GREAT POULTENEY ST

LITTLE POULTENEY ST

PARK PLACE

PARK PLACE MEWS

NEW BURLINGTON ST

BOYCE ST

SILVER

MAIDEN LANE

CRANBOURN STREET

LEICESTER SQUARE

LEICESTER STREET

WHITCOMB STREET

CRANBOURN ST

CASTLE STREET

COVENTRY STREET

ST MARTINS LANE

ST MARTINS STREET

WHITE HART ST

CHANDOS ST

BEDFORD ST

HENRIETTA ST

MONTAGUE STREET

GLOUCESTER STREET

DEVONSHIRE ST

EAST HARPUR ST

NEW BOSWELL ST

THEOBALD'S

GREAT RUSSELL ST

MIDDLE ST

BLOOMSBURY ST

BURY STREET

CHARLOTTE MEWS

CAROLINE MEWS

CAMBRIDGE ST

RUSSELL MEWS

KINGSGATE ST

EAGLE STREET

SOUTHAMPTON ST

KING ST

PRINCES ST

GUILFORD

QUEEN SQUARE

BRUNSWICK SQ.

LAMB'S CONDUIT STREET

CHAPEL ST

RED LION SQ

PRINCES ST

GRAYS INN ROAD

SAMPSON STREET

CALEDONIAN BASIN

OLD SAINT PANCRAS ROAD

BATTLE BRDG

BAGNIGGE

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BERKELEY SQUARE

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THE QUEENS WALK

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CRANBOURN ST

CASTLE STREET

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ST MARTINS LANE

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WHITE HART ST

CHANDOS ST

BEDFORD ST

HENRIETTA ST

MONTAGUE STREET

GLOUCESTER STREET

DEVONSHIRE ST

EAST HARPUR ST

NEW BOSWELL ST

THEOBALD'S

GREAT RUSSELL ST

MIDDLE ST

BLOOMSBURY ST

BURY STREET

CHARLOTTE MEWS

CAROLINE MEWS

CAMBRIDGE ST

RUSSELL MEWS

KINGSGATE ST

EAGLE STREET

SOUTHAMPTON ST

KING ST

PRINCES ST

GUILFORD

QUEEN SQUARE

BRUNSWICK SQ.

LAMB'S CONDUIT STREET

CHAPEL ST

RED LION SQ

PRINCES ST

GRAYS INN ROAD

SAMPSON STREET

CALEDONIAN BASIN

OLD SAINT PANCRAS ROAD

BATTLE BRDG

BAGNIGGE

MARYLEBONE ROAD

PORTLAND PLACE

CAVENDISH SQUARE

LANCHAM PLACE

REGENT STREET

MARGARET STREET

CASTLE STREET EAST

WILLIS ST

OXFORD STREET

GREAT MARLBOROUGH ST

POLAND STREET

ARGYLL STREET

ARGYLL PLACE

PRINCES ST

HANOVER ST

HANOVER SQUARE

BROOK ST

GEORGE STREET

MADDOX STREET

CONDUIT STREET

NEW BOND STREET

SOUTH MOLTON STREET

DAVIES STREET

CROSVENOR STREET

CROSVENOR SQUARE

CROSVENOR MEWS

MOUNT ROW

ADAMS MEWS

MOUNT STREET

BRUTON STREET

BERKELEY SQUARE

CRAFTON ST

ALBEMARLE STREET

OLD BOND STREET

BURLINGTON GARDENS

HAY HILL

DOVER STREET

BERKELEY STREET

STRATTON STREET

BOLTON STREET

CLARGES STREET

HALF MOON STREET

WHITE HORSE ST

CLIFFORD STREET

SAVILLE ROW

GUNN STREET

REGENTS QUADRANT

REGENT CIRCUS

SACKVILLE STREET

PICCADILLY

JERMYN STREET

YORK STREET

HAYMARKET

RECENT STREET

WATERLOO PLACE

PALL MALL EAST

TRAFALGAR SQUARE

COCKSPUR ST

CHARING CROSS

PALL MALL

SAINT JAMES'S STREET

SAINT JAMES'S SQUARE

KING STREET

DUKE STREET

BURY STREET

THE QUEENS WALK

THE MALL

SAINT JAMES'S PARK

WHITEHALL

CHARLES STREET

PARLIAMENT STREET

GREAT GEORGE STREET

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE

BIRD CAGE WALK

BROAD SANCTUARY

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

TOTHILL STREET

BROADWAY

ST MARGARET STREET

WESTMINSTER HALL

NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

OLD PALACE YD

ABINGDON STREET

MILLBANK ST

DEANS YARD

GT COLLEGE STREET

GT PETER STREET

WOOD STREET

MARSHAM STR

SMITH SQUARE

ARTILLERY ROW

VICTORIA STREET

VICTORIA ROAD

ARABELLA ROW

VICTORIA SQUARE

LOWER COSVENOR PL

CROSVENOR STREET WEST

BREWER STRY

LOWER EATON ST

BELGRAVE ST SOUTH

EATON SQUARE LOWER BELGRAVE ST

UPPER ECCLESTON STREET

ECCLESTON STREET

EATON PLACE

CHESHAM PLACE

CHESHAM STREET

PONT STREET

SLOANE STREET

CADOGAN PLACE

LOWNDES SQUARE

WILTON CRESCENT

WILTON PLACE

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

HALKIN STREET

BELGRAVE MEWS

CHAPEL STREET

GLOUCESTER TER

CHESTER STREET

CHESTER MEWS

WILTON STREET

HALKIN STREET WEST

MOTCOMB STREET

BELGRAVE SQUARE

CONSTITUTION HILL

HYDE PARK CORNER

ROTTEN ROW

KING ROAD

PARK LANE

GREEN PARK

PALACE GARDENS

SAINT JAMES'S PARK

JAMES STREET

CATHERINE ST

PALACE STREET

CHARLOTTE ST

ST CHAPEL STREET

YORK STREET

ORCHARD STREET

PALACE YD

PALACE MEWS

PARIS ST

HUNGERFORD BRIDGE

RIVER

PLAN(V.)

PLAN OF METROPOLITAN SUPER-WAY.

(Nº 4.)

Designed by J. Pym.

R. REGENT'S CANAL
CITY ROAD BASIN
WENLOCK BASIN
NEW NORTH ROAD
BARNSBURY
LIVERPOOL ROAD
HIGH STREET ISLINGTON
ROAD
HILL
CLAREMONT SQUARE
MYDDELTON SQUARE
ST JOHN STREET ROAD
COSWELL
C T V
ROAD
CHARLES ST
SPENCER ST
CHARLES STREET
MYDDELTON ST
PERCIVAL ST
COMPTON ST.
OLD STREET
BEVENDEN STREET
HIGH STREET
HACKNEY ROAD
SHOREDITCH STATION.
LEONARD STREET
PITFIELD STREET
OLD STREET
WORSHIP STREET
MARKET
FINSBURY SQUARE
BUNHILL ROW
CHISWELL STR.
BEECH STR
BARBICAN
CARTHUSIAN ST
CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE
CHARTERHOUSE LANE
COW CROSS STR.
SMITHFIELD BARS
SAINT JOHN ST
COSWELL ST
CLERKENWELL GREEN
ST JOHN'S SQUARE
ST JOHN'S LANE
BERKELEY ST
RED LION STR
TOPPING STREET
TENJAMIN ST
ALBION PLACE
COPPICE ROW
ALTHORP
JOHN ST
KINGS ROAD
JOCKEY FIELDS
RD ROW
QUORNDON STREET
GRAYS INN LANE
HATTON WALL
SARDINIA ST
PORY POOL LANE
UNION ST
CROSS ST
CROSS ATTON CAKE
KIRBY ST
BALDWIN GARDENS
GREVILLE ST
GRAYS INN SQUARE
SOUTH SQUARE
FIELD C
PERCY CIRCUS
WELLS
ROAD
ARTHUR ST
STR
VICTORIA STREET
WEST SMITHFIELD
LONG LANE
JEWIN STREET
ALDERSGATE STREET
RED CROSS STREET
WHITE CROSS STREET
WILSON
FINSBURY PLACE
FINSBURY CIRCUS
ELDON ST
FORE STREET
W. BLOOMFIELD ST
LONDON WALL
MOORGATE STREET
SUN STREET
NORTON FOLGATE
SHOREDITCH
WHITE LION ST
CHURCH ST.
UNION STREET
COMMERCIAL STR.
HOLBORN
HOLBORN HILL
BRIDGE
SNOW HILL
SKINNER STR.
FARRINGDON STREET
SHOE LANE
CHANCERY LANE
NEW SQUARE
CAREY STREET
FLEET STREET
STRAND
LUDGATE HILL
LUDGATE HILL LUDGATE STR.
OLD BAILEY
NEWGATE STREET
NEWGATE MARKET
PATERNOSTER ROW
ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD
St Paul's
CHEAPSIDE
WOOD STREET
KING STREET
Bank of England
Royal Exchange
CORNHILL
LOMBARD ST
GRACECHURCH STREET
BISHOPSGATE STREET
BISHOPS GATE
HOUNDSDITCH
ALDGATE HIGH STREET
LEADENHALL STREET
MINORIES
ST JOHN STR.
CRUTCHED FRIARS
FENCHURCH ST
BLACKWALL STATION
ROYAL MINT ST.
TRINITY SQUARE
TOWER
DITCH
LITTLE TOWER HILL
ST KATHARINE DOCKS
Custom Ho. Quay
LOWER THAMES STREET
KING WILLIAM ST
QUEEN STREET
QUEEN'S PLACE
SOUTHWARK BRIDGE
LONDON BRIDGE
T H A M E S
BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE
BLACKFRIARS ROAD
TEMPLE
TEMPLE ST
TUDORS
EARL ST
UPPER THAMES STREET
HOLLAND ST
BANK SIDE
NEW PARK ST
SUMMER STR.
GUILFORD ST
CHURCH ST
GEORGE STREET
YORK STREET
CHARLOTTE STREET
NELSON SQE
GRAVEL LANE
UNION STREET
ORANGE STR
LUMAN ST
QUEEN STR
WHITE CROSS ST
HIGH ST
KING ST
WELLINGTON ST
LONDON BRIDGE STATION.
THOMAS STREET
MAZE POND
BROAD ST
FAIR ST
SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY
BERMONDSEY STREET
BERMONDSEY LEATHER MARKET
RUSSELL STREET
LONG LANE
NELSON ST
WHITE ST
KENT STREET
ABBEY ST
ST GEORGE ST
GRANGE ROAD
SPA ROAD
BERMONDSEY NEW RD
ST GEORGE'S RD
UNION ROAD
BRUNSWICK ST
ST ANDREW'S RD
BATH TERRACE
DEVONSHIRE STR
WELLINGTON STR
NEWINGTON CAUSEWAY
BOROUGH ROAD
ST GEORGE'S CIRCUS
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD
LONDON ROAD
CAMDEN ROW
VAUXHALL ROAD
ST GEORGES ROAD
LAMBETH ROAD
KING EDWARD ST
HERCULES BUILDINGS
NORTH STREET
WATERLOO ROAD STATION
WATERLOO STATION
SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NEW CUT
WEBBER STREET
MARSH ROAD
LOWER
MOUNT STREET
OAKLEY ST
GLOUCESTER STR
CHARLES ST
GRAY STREET
GREEN STREET
HILL
SUFFOLK
STREET
FRIAR STREET
UNION
PRINCE
ROW
BLACKMAN STREET
SWAN STREET
TRINITY STREET
COLE STR
DOVER STREET
HORSEMONGER LA
CAUSEWAY
NEWINGTON
MARKET
EARL
MARKET STR
UNION STREET
CHURCH
ROBERT ST
EDWARD ST
JANE ST
ISABELLA ST
WOOTTON STREET
BRAD STREET
WHITEHORSE STREET
CHURCH ROAD
BROAD WALK
CROSS
WALL
HATFIELD ST
BRUNSWICK STREET
STREET
COMMERCIAL ROAD
PRINCES STREET
THOMAS ST
JOHN ST
BOND ST
UPPER
CONWAY
STAMFORD STREET
STAMFORD
BROAD STREET
DUKE
BERNETT
PRINCES ST
GRAVEL LANE
FARNHAM PL.
BLOXSOM ROW
GREAT GUILFORD STREET
CASTLE SQ.
NEW STR
AMERICA ST
ROAD
BLACKFRIARS
ROAD
NELSON SQE
CHARLOTTE STREET
GRAVEL LANE
UNION STREET
ORANGE STR
LUMAN ST
SURREY ROW
WELLINGTON STR
GREEN STREET
HILL
SUFFOLK
STREET
FRIAR STREET
UNION
PRINCE
ROW
WEBBER STREET
WEBBER ROW
MARSH ROAD
LOWER
THOMAS STR
GLOUCESTER STR
OAKLEY ST
MOUNT STREET
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD
ST GEORGE'S CIRCUS
BOROUGH ROAD
LONDON ROAD
CAMDEN ROW
VAUXHALL ROAD
ST GEORGES ROAD
LAMBETH ROAD
KING EDWARD ST
HERCULES BUILDINGS
NORTH STREET
WATERLOO ROAD STATION
SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NEW CUT
WEBBER STREET
MARSH ROAD
LOWER
MOUNT STREET
OAKLEY ST
GLOUCESTER STR
CHARLES ST
GRAY STREET
GREEN STREET
HILL
SUFFOLK
STREET
FRIAR STREET
UNION
PRINCE
ROW
BLACKMAN STREET
SWAN STREET
TRINITY STREET
COLE STR
DOVER STREET
HORSEMONGER LA
CAUSEWAY
NEWINGTON
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EARL
MARKET STR
UNION STREET
CHURCH
ROBERT ST
EDWARD ST
JANE ST
ISABELLA ST
WOOTTON STREET
BRAD STREET
WHITEHORSE STREET
CHURCH ROAD
BROAD WALK
CROSS
WALL
HATFIELD ST
BRUNSWICK STREET
STREET
COMMERCIAL ROAD
PRINCES STREET
THOMAS ST
JOHN ST
BOND ST
UPPER
CONWAY
STAMFORD STREET
STAMFORD
BROAD STREET
DUKE
BERNETT
PRINCES ST
GRAVEL LANE
FARNHAM PL.
BLOXSOM ROW
GREAT GUILFORD STREET
CASTLE SQ.
NEW STR
AMERICA ST

NEW ROAD
YORK STREET
YORK PLACE
CLOCESTER PLACE
CRAWFORD STREET
DORSET STREET
EAST STREET
MANCHESTER STREET
BAKER STREET
MONTAGU PLACE
MONTAGU SQUARE
KING STR
BLANDFORD STREET
SOUTH STREET
GEORGE STREET
UPPER GEORGE ST
ADAM STREET
CLOUCESTER ST
CUMBERLAND PL
UPPER BERKELEY STREET
SEYMOUR STREET
BRYANSTON STREET
OLD QUEBEC ST
PORTMAN SQUARE
EDWARD'S STREET
ORCHARD STREET
SOMERSET STREET
PORTMAN MEWS
PORTMAN ST
DUKE STREET
JAMES ST
HENRIETTA STREET
BIRD STREET
STRATFORD PL
OXFORD STREET
HEREFORD STREET
NORTH
GREEN STREET
LEES MEWS
WOODS MEWS
UPPER BROOK STREET
KING STREET MEWS
KING ST
REEVES MEWS
UPPER CROSVENOR STREET
MOUNT STREET
ADAMS MEWS
MOUNT ROW
CHAPEL STREET
SOUTH AUDLEY STREET
NORTH AUDLEY STREET
HART ST
GEORGE ST
QUEEN ST
THOMAS STREET
GILBERT STREET
MOLTON STREET
BROOK ST
BROOKS MEWS
DAVIES STREET
CROSVENOR SQUARE
CROSVENOR STREET
CROSVENOR MEWS
N BRUTON MEWS
BRUTON STREET
BERKELEY SQUARE
FARM STREET
HILL STREET
HAYS MEWS
JOHN STREET
CHARLES STREET
UNION STREET
SOUTH AUDLEY STREET
PARK LANE
RING ROAD
Reservoir
ROTTEN ROW
HYDE PARK CORNER
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
GREEN PARK
CONSTITUTION HILL
PALACE GARDENS
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
THE MALL
SAINT JAMES'S PARK
BIRD CAGE WALK
PICCADILLY
HAY HILL
DOVER STREET
BERKELEY STREET
ALBEMARLE STREET
OLD BOND STREET
BURLINGTON GARDENS
CORK STREET
SAVILLE ROW
CLIFFORD STREET
CRAFTON ST
NEW BOND STREET
MADDOX STREET
GEORGE STREET
CONDUIT STREET
BOYLE ST
NEW BURLINGTON ST
REGENT STREET
REGENTS QUADRANT
REGENT CIRCUS
HAYMARKET
SUFFOLK ST
JERMYN STREET
YORK STREET
DUKE STREET
DIAMOND YARD
SAINT JAMES'S SQUARE
BURY STREET
ST JAMES'S STREET
KING STREET
PALL MALL
CARLTON GARDENS
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE
PARLINGTON ST
THE QUEENS WALK
CURZON STREET
MARKET STREET
CARRINGTON MEWS
HERTFORD STREET
WHITE HORSE ST
HALF MOON STREET
CLARGES STREET
BOLTON STREET
STRATTON STREET
QUEEN STREET
CHESTERFIELD ST
TRIMMEL ST
STANHOPE ST
MARYLEBONE LANE
BULSTRODE ST
WELBECK STREET
U WELBECK ST
BENTINCK ST
HINDE ST
MANCHESTER SQUARE
NEW CAVENDISH STREET
MANSFIELD ST
CHANDOS STREET
CAVENDISH SQUARE
LANCHAM PLACE
MORTIMER STREET
MARGARET STREET
CASTLE STREET
CASTLE STREET EAST
WELLS ST
BERNERS STREET
NEWMAN STREET
WELLS STREET
BERNERS MEWS
HANWAY ST
OXFORD STREET
WIGMORE STR.
HENRIETTA STREET
VERE STREET
OLD CAVENDISH ST
HOLLES STREET
PRINCES STREET
GT CASTLE STREET
MARKET ROW
REGENT CIRCUS
ARGYLL STREET
ARGYLL PLACE
GT MARLBOROUGH ST
MARLBOROUGH SQUARE
PRINCES ST
HANOVER ST
HANOVER SQUARE
TENTERDEN ST
CHERCHEFIELD GDNS
PORTLAND PLACE
PORTLAND ROAD
CHARLOTTE STREET
NORTON STREET
CARBURTON ST
CLIPSTONE ST
UP CHARLOTTE ST
CHARLTON ST
SAVILLE STREET
GREAT PORTLAND ST
GREAT TITCHFIELD ST
FOLEY PLACE
DUKE STREET
GREAT MARYLEBONE STREET
PADDINGTON STREET
NOTTINGHAM ST
NOTTINGHAM PLACE
NORTHUMBERLAND ST
DAVID ST
BEAUMONT STREET
DEVONSHIRE PL
UPWIMPOLE ST
DEVONSHIRE STREET
HARLEY STREET
WEYMOUTH STREET
UPPER MARYLEBONE ST
LITTLE MARYLEBONE ST
BOWLING ST
PARADISE ST
HIGH STREET
WIMPOLE STREET
LONDON
RUSSELL ST
CLEVELAND STREET
HOWLAND STREET
UP CHARLOTTE ST
JOHN STREET
CHAPEL ST
PITT STR
NORTH STR
TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
FRANCIS ST
ALFRED STR
ALFRED PLACE
CHENIES ST
GOWER STREET
KEPPEL STREET
STORE STREET
LOWER MEWS
MONTAGUE PLACE
RUSSELL SQ
BEDFORD SQUARE
BEDFORDS ST
TAVISTOCK SQUARE
TAVISTOCK ST
CAROLINE MEWS
CHARLOTTE ST
GREAT BLOOMSBURY
RUSSELL ST
TOTTENHAM
MORTIMER ST
COGGLE
FOLEY STREET
NORFOLK STR
UNION
NASSAU ST
WELLS STREET
CHARLES STREET
PERCY STR
WINDMILL STREET
STEPHEN'S ST
RATHBONE PLACE
RATHBONE PLACE
NEW OXFORD STREET
HIGH STREET
NEW CHURCH ST
SOHO SQUARE
SUTTON ST
CHARLES ST
CROWN STREET
SEVEN DIALS
DUDLEY STREET
ST ANDREWS ST
LIT EARL ST
QUEEN ST
BROAD STREET
COMPTON ST
OLD COMPTON ST
LITCHFIELD STREET
PORTER ST
KING STREET
GERRARD STREET
GRAFTON STREET
CRANBOURN STREET
ST MARTINS LANE
NEW STREET
CASTLE STREET
LEICESTER SQUARE
COVENTRY STREET
WHITCOMB STREET
ST MARTINS STREET
SUFFOLK ST
DUNCANNON ST
TRAFALGAR SQUARE
PALL MALL EAST
COCKSPUR ST
CHARING CROSS
SPRING GARDENS
NEW STREET
WHITEHALL
GREAT SCOTLAND
WHITEHALL PLACE
GREAT GEORGE STREET
PARLIAMENT
BROAD SANCTUARY
WESTMINSTER ABBEY
DEANS YARD
COLLEGE STREET
ORCHARD STREET
TOTHILL STREET
BROADWAY
JAMES STREET
YORK STREET
CHAPEL STREET
CATHERINE ST
PALACE STREET
CHARLOTTE ST
VICTORIA ROAD
VICTORIA STREET
LOWER GOSVENOR PL
ARABELLA ROW
VICTORIA SQUARE
BREWER STRT
LOWER EATON ST
CROSVENOR STREET WEST
EATON SQUARE LOWER BELGRAVE ST
BELGRAVE ST SOUTH
LOWER BELGRAVE PLACE
ECCLESTON STREET SOUTH
EBURY STREET
WILTON ROAD
ARTILLERY ROW
GREY COAT ST
FRANCIS STREET
ROCHESTER ROW
VINCENT STREET
NEW STREET
CAREY STREET
PACE STREET
HOLYWELL STREET
PETER STREET
WOOD STREET
MARSHAM STREET
SMITH SQUARE
MEDWAY STREET
RUMNEY ST
VINE STREET
HORSEFERRY ROAD
MARKET STR
CROSVENOR PLACE
WILTON CRESCENT
WILTON PLACE
CLOUCESTER TER
HALKIN STREET
BELGRAVE MEWS NORTH
BELGRAVE MEWS
CHAPEL STREET
HALKIN STREET WEST
MOTCOMB STREET
BELGRAVE SQUARE
UPPER BELGRAVE ST
CHESTER STREET
CHESTER MEWS
WILTON STREET
CADOGAN PLACE
SLOANE STREET
LOWNDES SQUARE
PONT STREET
CHESHAM PLACE
CHESHAM STREET
EATON PLACE
EATON SQUARE
LYALL STREET
UPR ECCLESTON STREET
ECCLESTON STREET
CHESTER SQUARE
EATON PLACE

1855

THAMES

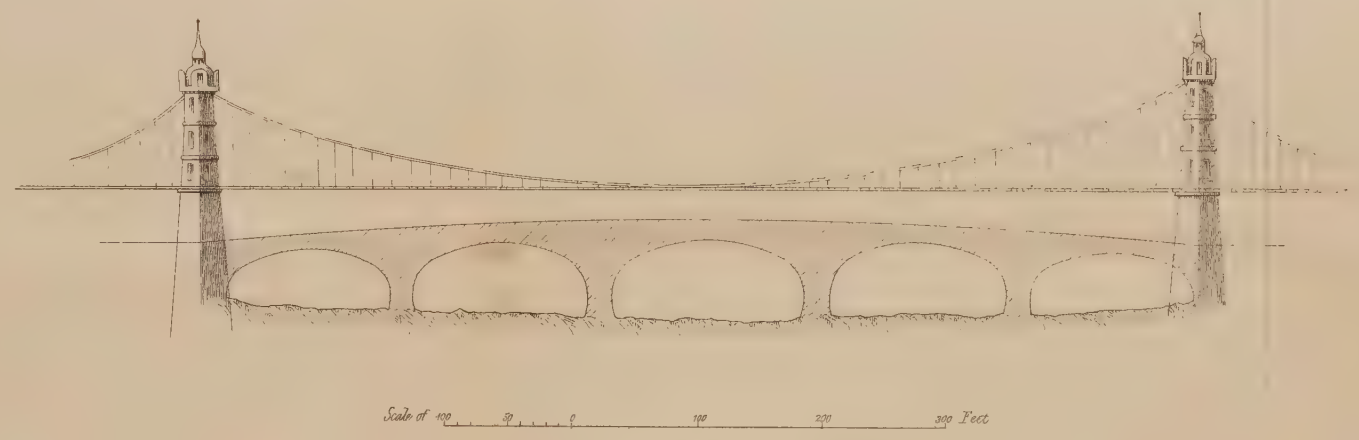
No 370. Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed, 14th July, 1854.
Henry Hansard Printer.

PLAN (VII.)

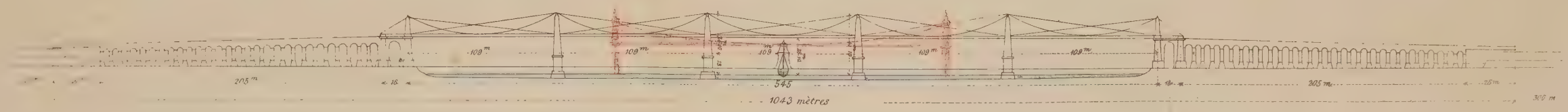
PLANS,

[Delivered in by Thomas Page, Esq.]

PLAN No. 1.



PLAN No. 2



W. Con Lith.r to the Queen.

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Henry Hansard, Printer

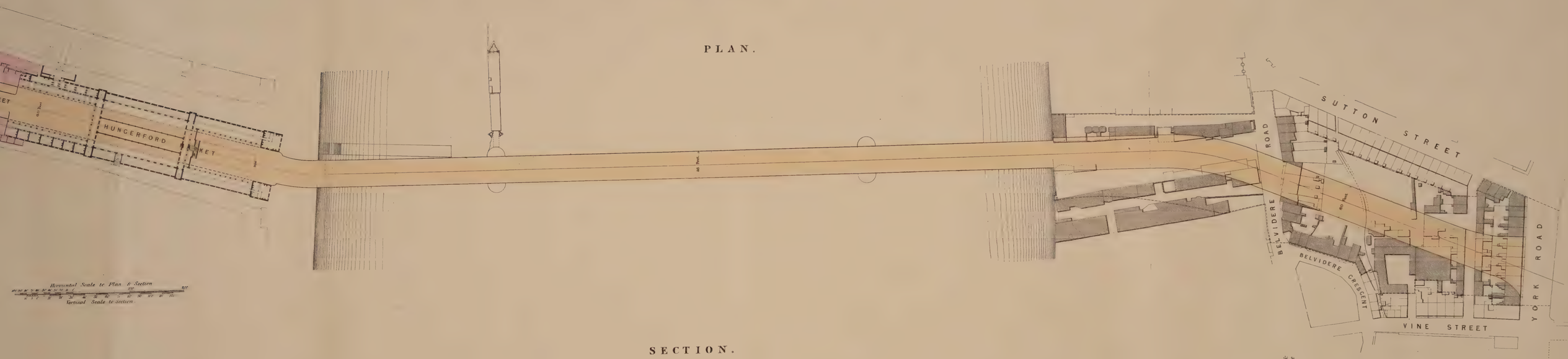
PLAN(VIII.)

[Drawing N°1]

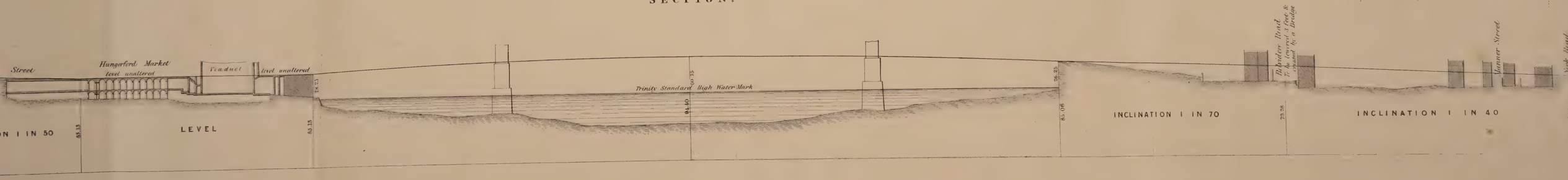
CHARING CROSS BRIDGE.

GENERAL PLAN & SECTION OF BRIDGE SHEWING THE PROPOSED APPROACHES.

PLAN.



SECTION.



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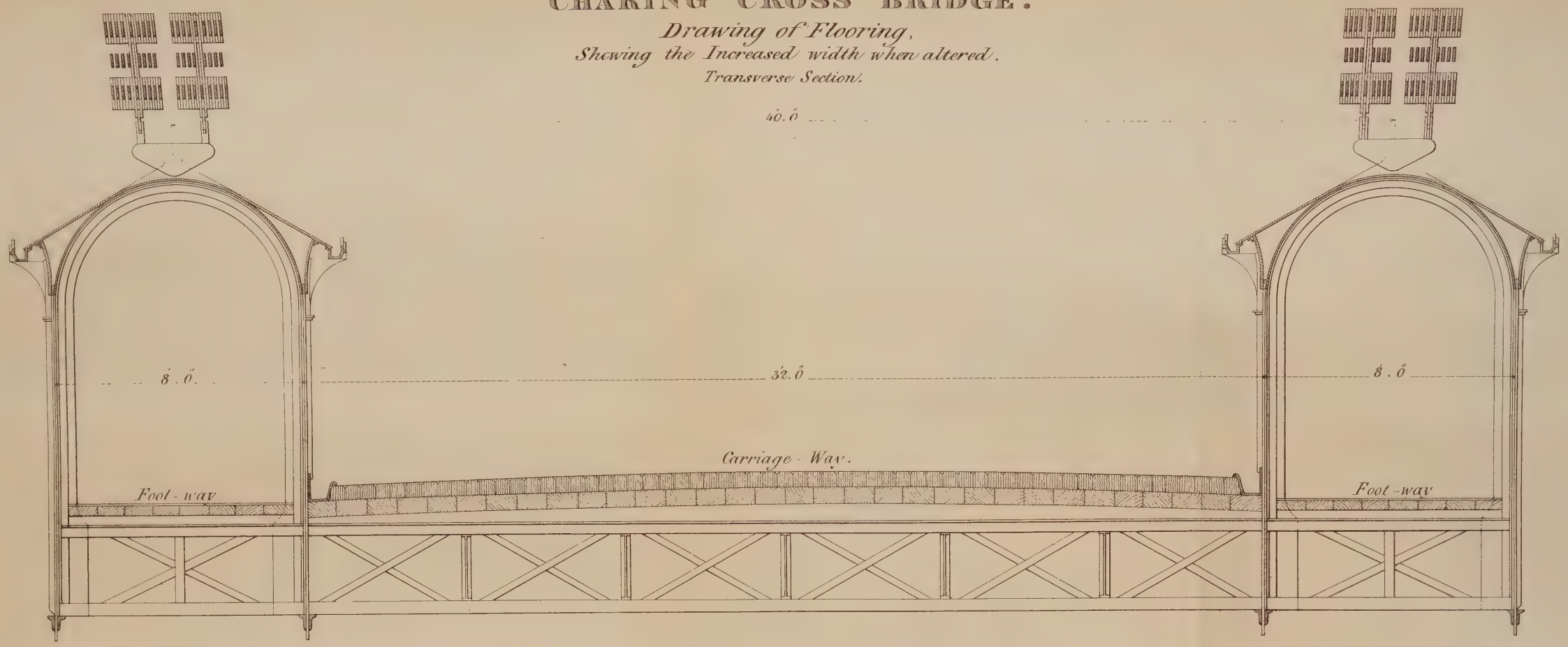
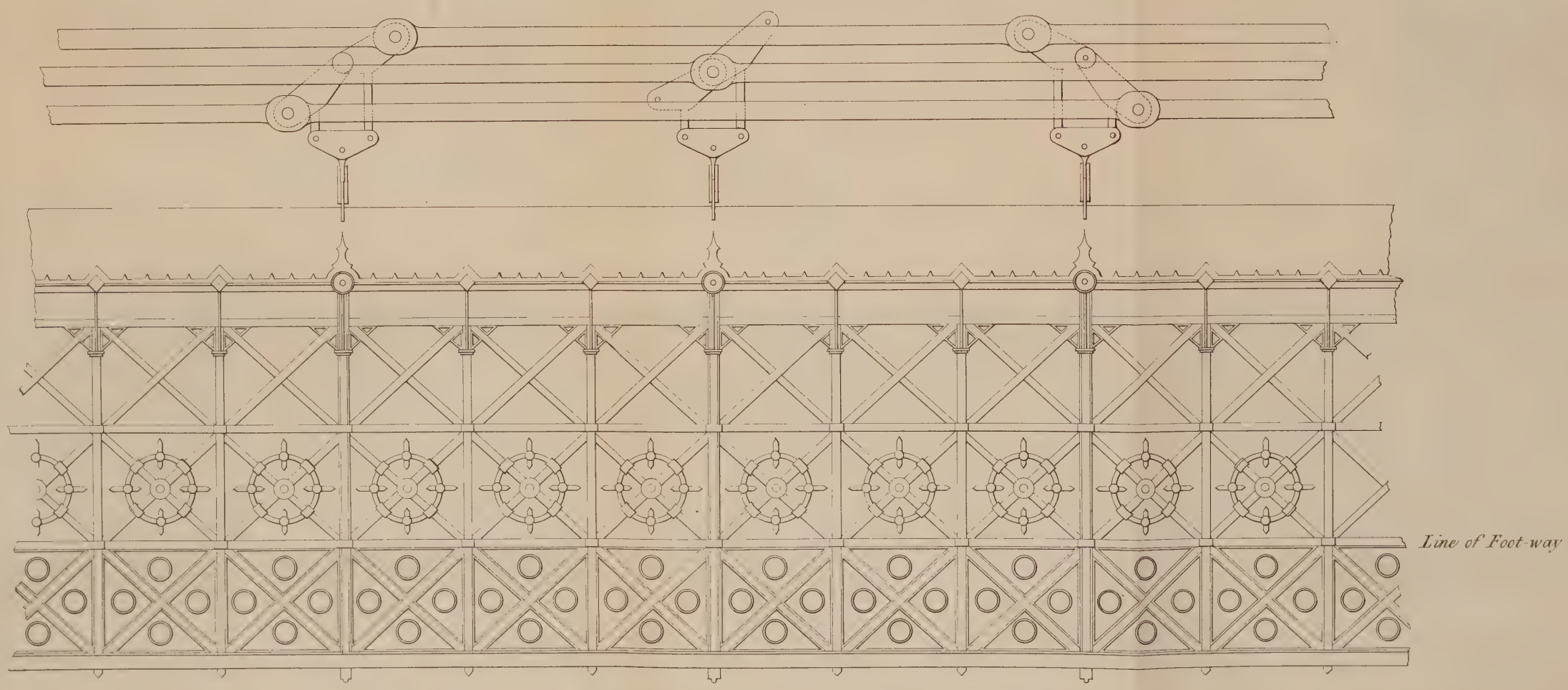
PLAN (IX.)
[Drawing No. 2.]

CHARING CROSS BRIDGE.

Drawing of Flooring,
Showing the Increased width when altered.
Transverse Section.



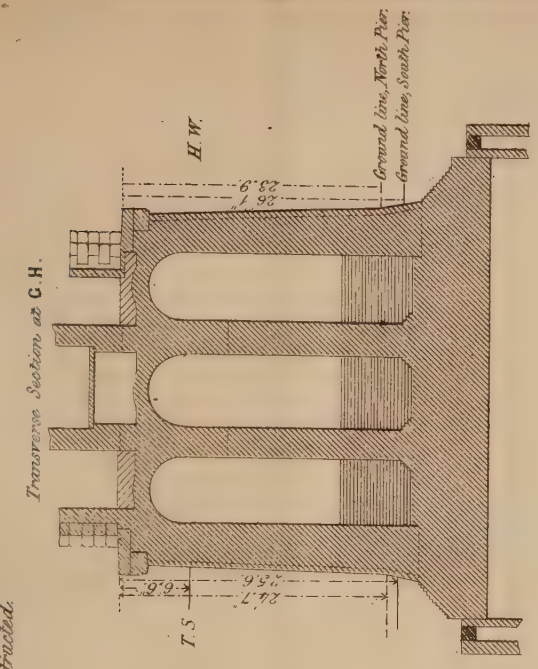


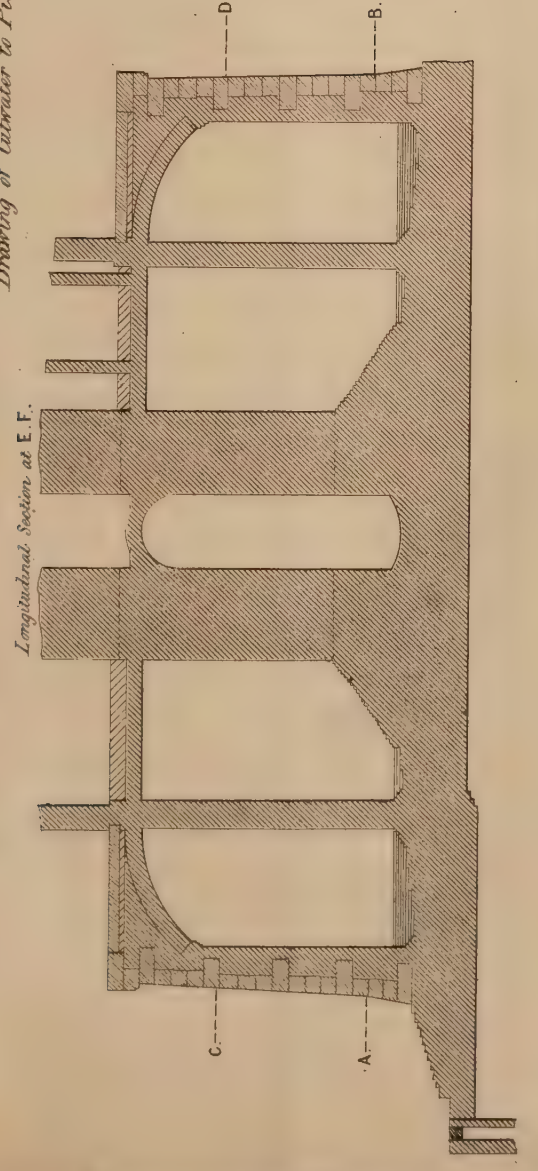
Standidge & Co. Lith. Old Jewry

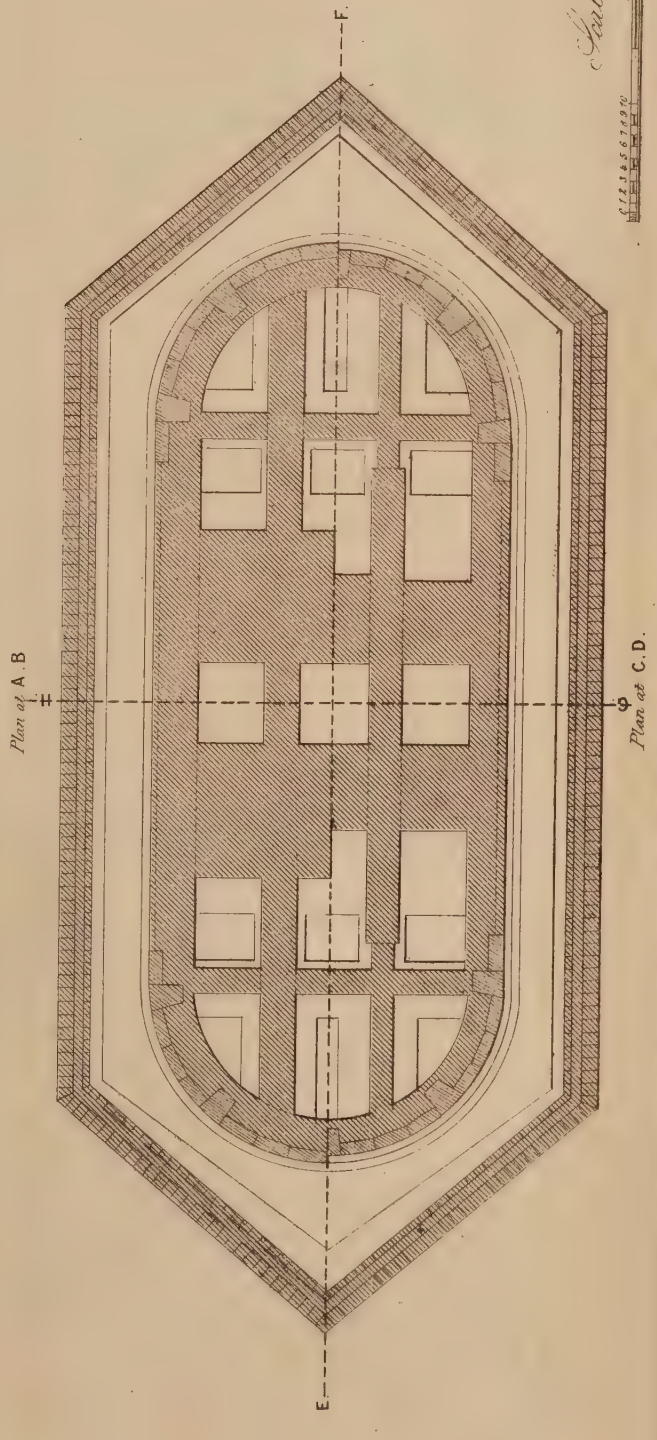
PLAN (X.)
[Drawing N°. 3.]

CHARING CROSS BRIDGE.

Drawing of Cutwater to Piers as now constructed.







PLAN (XI.)
[Drawing No. 4.]

ST. JAMES'S PARK.
HAYMARKET.
WATERLOO PLACE.
PALL MALL EAST
TRAFALGAR SQUARE.
COCKSPUR ST.
CHARING CROSS.
ST. MARTINS LANE.
ADELAIDE ST.
DUNCANNON ST.
STRAND.
NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSE.
SCOTLAND YARD.
WHITEHALL PLACE.
WHITEHALL.
PARLIAMENT STREET.
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.
THAMES RIVER
CHARING CROSS BRIDGE.
WATERLOO BRIDGE.
STAMFORD STREET.
WATERLOO ROAD.
PROPOSED NEW STREET TO TOWN HALL SOUTHWARK
YORK ROAD.
WATERLOO STATION.
S.W.R.
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD.
LOWER MARSH.
NEW CUT.

Scale.
100 50 0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

J. Basire, Lithe

No. 370. Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 14th July, 1854.
Henry Hansard, Printer.

I N D E X.

[*N.B.*—In this Index the *Figures* following the Names of the Witnesses refer to the Questions of the Evidence; those following *App. p.* to the paging of the Appendix; and the *Numerals* following *Rep. p.* to the paging of the Report.]

A.

ACTS of Parliament. See *Battersea Bridge. Bills. Crown, The. Hampton Court Bridge. Kew Bridge. Kingston Bridge. London Bridge.*

Additional Bridges. The construction of another bridge would not effect much good without the proposed street were made through the Borough, *Laing* 56——Sites upon which it would be expedient to erect additional bridges, *Rep. p.* iv.

Andrews, George William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Heavy toll taken at Moulsey Bridge; objection of the inhabitants to it, 1344-1352——There is a general willingness to pay a rate to buy up the bridge, 1353-1358——Popular feeling as to the desirability of getting rid of the toll, 1362-1370——Weekly sum paid in tolls by witness, 1371——Present condition of Moulsey Bridge, 1372.

Annuities. Periods at which the annuities chargeable on the Bridge House Estates will expire, *Brand* 214-219.

Approaches. It would be useless to throw open the Southwark Bridge unless the communication with the railway stations were improved, *Jones* 111, 112. 131-133——It would be necessary, in the event of the plan of widening London Bridge being adopted, to widen the approaches also, *Evans* 745-751——Manner in which the approaches of the bridge from St. Paul's might be adapted to the existing levels, *Tite* 1050-1056.

See also *Southwark Bridge. Thames Tunnel. Tower, The.*

Area. See *Taxation.*

Ashby, Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Injury done to the trade of Staines by the existence of the toll on the bridge, 1492, 1493——There is a general willingness on the part of the inhabitants of Staines to share in a tax for abolishing tolls on all the bridges, 1494-1498.

Ashby, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Reasons for which the people of Staines are anxious for the bridge to be made free, 1443-1448. 1467-1481——Particulars as to the funds with which the bridge was built, and as to the revenue, 1449-1459. 1465, 1466. 1482. 1489-1491——The bridge is now in the possession of a mortgagee, 1460-1464——There is no toll on foot passengers, 1483-1485——Staines Bridge has been rebuilt five times within witness's recollection, 1486-1488.

B.

Baalham, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is resident superintendent or clerk of Battersea Bridge, 1766——The average annual income of the bridge toll for the last three years has been 6,511 *l.* 0 *s.* 3 *d.*; and the expenses, 750 *l.*, 1767-1770——Increase of late years in the amount of the revenue, 1771-1774——Satisfactory condition of the bridge, 1775, 1776——There is a desire on the part of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood for the bridge to be thrown open, 1777-1779.

Baly, Price Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was resident engineer at the Charing Cross Bridge, 671, 672——It is quite possible to adapt a carriage road to the bridge, 673-675. 678, 679——Estimated cost of the improvements, 674. 688, 689——Width

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Baly, Price Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

proposed to be given to the bridge, 676, 677——Present span of Charing Cross Bridge 681——Alterations proposed to be made in the traffic way of the bridge, 682-685——It will be more economical to enlarge the present bridge than to build another, 686, 687 ——Extent to which it is proposed to alter Hungerford Market, 690-695——The span of Charing Cross Bridge would have to be reduced to enable it to bear a railway, 696-698 ——Relative strength of the bridge, 699-703 —— Description of its foundation, 701-712.

[Second Examination.]—Witness hands in documents to illustrate the proposed alteration of Charing Cross Bridge into a carriage bridge, 1216, 1217.

Bateson, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Consideration given by witness to Blackfriars Bridge, 483-485——Description of bridge which witness proposes to adapt to Blackfriars Bridge, 486. 488-499——The existing bridge has been reported unsafe, and will require to be partly pulled down, 488. 502-505——Witness proposes to remove the three defective arches and throw ironwork across, 499-501——Explanation of witness's plan, 506-509.

Battersea Bridge:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Shares.*
3. *Tolls and Revenue.*

1. *Generally:*

Battersea Bridge was built under an Act of Parliament of 1768; it is in a good state of repair, *S. S. Tayler* 1691-1697——It is fully adequate to the traffic, *ib.* 1698-1701—— There are no documents which show the original cost of the bridge, *Janson* 1714-1718 ——Circumstances under which it was built, *ib.* 1722-1727——Manner in which the business is conducted at the meetings of the proprietors, *ib.* 1745-1751——The Act contains no clause as to the purchase of the bridge for the benefit of the public, *ib.* 1755-1758——Satisfactory condition of the bridge, *Baalham* 1775, 1776.

2. *Shares:*

There are now 13 shareholders, and they divide between 400*l.* and 500*l.* each a year, *Janson* 1719. 1721. 1739——Sum which the shares fetched on the last occasion of a sale, *ib.* 1728-1732——Manner in which the shares first arose, *ib.* 1733-1735——Particulars as to the last sale of a share; the property comprehended in a share, and the nature of the title to it, *ib.* 1736-1738. 1740-1744——Manner in which the shares are transferred, *ib.* 1759, 1760.

3. *Tolls and Revenue:*

The tolls amount to about 6,000*l.* per annum, *S. S. Tayler* 1705-1711——Property belonging to Battersea Bridge exclusive of the tolls, *ib.* 1711, 1712——There is a fixed scale of toll, *Janson* 1752, 1753——The average annual income of the bridge tolls for the last three years has been 6,511*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, and the expenses, 750*l.*, *Baalham* 1767-1770 ——Increase of late years in the revenue, *ib.* 1771-1774——Statement of the income and expenditure of the bridge, *App. p.* 170.

See also *Battersea, Inhabitants of.*

Battersea, Inhabitants of. The inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Battersea have expressed no opinion as to the desirableness of removing the toll from the bridge, *S. S. Tayler* 1702-1704——There is a desire on the part of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood for the bridge to be thrown open, *Baalham* 1777-1779.

Bennoch, Francis. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is projector of a plan for a bridge over the Thames from St. Paul's, 304——Sum at which witness estimates his plan might be carried out, 305-308. 338, 339——Width proposed for the bridge, 309, 310 ——The local advantages for constructing this bridge are very great, 311-313——The estimate is confined to the cost of the bridge, excluding the purchase of ground and houses, 314.

Facility with which the bridge might be adapted to the Government and Mr. Sang's design of connecting the railways with the Post-office, 315, 316——Character of the neighbourhood on the Surrey side of the proposed improvement, 317-320. 354, 355—— The sum proposed for making a new street to Earl-street, Blackfriars, would be better applied in building this bridge, 321——Disadvantages of Blackfriars Bridge for traffic; amount of traffic passing over it, 322——Increase in the traffic over London Bridge, estimated bridge traffic to be provided for, 323——Statement as to the bridge accommodation in 1801, and the limited extension made in it since that period, 324, 325—— Points from which the traffic converges to London Bridge, 326.

Advisability of establishing ferries below London Bridge, after the plan adopted over the Hudson at New York, 326-332——Extent to which witness believes that his proposed bridge would relieve London Bridge, 333-335——The approaches to Southwark Bridge

Bennoch, Francis. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Bridge require a large outlay to render them available, 335-337——The bridge suggested by witness can be made at a less expense than will be requisite to purchase Southwark Bridge and carry out the improvements at Earl-street, 337——Tables showing the traffic over the various metropolitan bridges, 340, 341.

Bridge accommodation afforded at Paris and Lyons as compared with London, 342-344——Additions made lately to the number of bridges at Glasgow; a comparison of the populations of that city and of London, shows it to be better provided with bridge accommodation, 345, 346——Statement of the proportions, costs, &c., of the metropolitan bridges, 346——Cost of the Glasgow bridges, 347, 348——Difference in the width of the Clyde and of the Thames, 349——Tolls levied on the Glasgow bridges, 350——Manner in which the expense of building the bridge proposed by witness would be partly met, 351——A rate in aid of the funds for its construction would not be objected to, and it ought properly to be levied on the county, 352——Expediency of establishing a river trust or bridge commission on the principle of that at Glasgow, 353——Advisability of bringing the termini of the South-Western and South-Eastern Railways to the foot of the proposed bridge, 356.

Bennoch, Mr. See *St. Paul's.*

Bills. State of the Bill for carrying out the proposed alterations at Charing Cross Bridge, *Few* 619, 620.

Blackfriars Bridge:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Condition of the Bridge.*

1. *Generally:*

Remarks as to Blackfriars Bridge, *Jones* 181-187——Disadvantages of Blackfriars Bridge for traffic; amount of traffic passing over it, *Bennoch* 322——Description of Bridge which witness proposes to adapt to Blackfriars Bridge, *Bateson* 486. 488-499——Sources from which the money for the repairs of Blackfriars Bridge have been taken, *Tyrrell* 1656-1661.

2. *Condition of the Bridge:*

Reports were made on the state of Blackfriars Bridge by Messrs. Walker & Burgess, and by Sir William Cubitt and Mr. Brunel, and on the reference of them to the Court of Common Council they concurred in the necessity of rebuilding the bridge, *Brand* 226-230——The existing bridge has been reported unsafe, and will require to be partly pulled down, *Bateson* 488. 502-505——Witness proposes to remove the three defective arches, and throw ironwork across, *ib.* 499-501——Explanation of witness's plan, *ib.* 506-509——The bridge is entirely supported by the scaffolding, *Tite* 1093-1095——Unsatisfactory state of Blackfriars Bridge, *Rep. p.* iii.

See also *Bridge House Estates.* *Bridges.*

Boileau, Major Charles Lestock. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is chairman of the Hammersmith Bridge Company, 1575——Financial history of the bridge, 1576-1579. 1586. 1588-1592. 1621——The bridge itself cost 50,000 *l.*, but the purchase of approaches and other expenses brought the original expenditure up to 85,000 *l.* 15 *s.* 8 *d.*; 1578, 1579——The gross revenue for last year was 3,700 *l.*, and the expenses 1,500 *l.*; 1581-1586. 1618——There is no debt, 1587.

Rate at which the income from tolls is annually increasing, 1593——Amount of the dividends, 1594——There is no desire among the inhabitants on the Surrey side of Hammersmith Bridge for the bridge being made free, but rather the contrary, as the toll keeps up the respectability of that neighbourhod, 1595-1600——Tolls levied, 1601, 1602——The bridge is in a thoroughly sound state, 1603, 1617.

The dean and chapter of St. Paul's are the principal land proprietors on the Surrey side of Hammersmith bridge, 1604, 1605——The Hammersmith people have no particular grounds for desiring the abolition of the toll; it does not practically prevent their tradespeople from serving customers on the Surrey side of the river, 1606-1611——The postal communication with London is not so quick at Castlenau as at Hammersmith, 1612-1616——Table, showing the annual income for every year since the bridge was built, 1619-1621.

Borough, The. The direct street through Southwark would probably facilitate the communication with the north part of London by means of Waterloo Bridge, *Laing* 66, 67——Desirableness of having a direct street communicating with the Surrey ends of the bridges, *Jones* 174, 175——Character of the neighbourhood on the Surrey side of the proposed improvements, *Bennoch* 317-320. 354, 355——Desirableness of improving the communication through the Borough from Waterloo Bridge, *James Walker* 428, 429.

See also *Lower Marsh and New Cut.* *New Streets.* *Southwark Bridge.*

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Brand, Ferdinand. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is comptroller of the Bridge House Estates, 200——Description of those estates, 201——They are held in trust by the Corporation for the maintenance of London Bridge, but the Stratford Estate is liable to the repair of two bridges in Essex, 201-203——Rental of the Bridge House Estates; charges upon them, 204. 206. 210-213——Charges upon the estates with respect to Blackfriars Bridge, 207. 209——Amount of surplus revenue expended on London and Blackfriars Bridges, 207, 208.

Periods at which the annuities chargeable on the Bridge House Estates revenue will expire, 214-219——The Corporation have the option of either widening the present bridge or building a new one, 219-222——The existing incumbrances on the Bridge House Estates will prevent any further expenditure in repairing Blackfriars Bridge, 223-225——Reports were made on the state of Blackfriars Bridge by Messrs. Walker & Burgess, and by Sir William Cubitt and Mr. Brunel, and on the reference of them to the Court of Common Council they concurred in the necessity for rebuilding the bridge, 226-230.

The Bridge House Committee are at present considering a plan for widening London Bridge, 231-238——Negociations opened by the committee with the directors of Southwark Bridge for the purchase of that bridge, 239. 243. 246-248. 274——Value of the bridge, taken on the amount of the income, 240-242——Impediments to throwing open the bridge for a year as an experiment, 244, 245.

The Bridge House Committee do not propose to pay for Southwark Bridge in the event of a reasonable offer from the directors, but to press the necessity of the purchase being made by the Government, 249, 250——Witness proposes an improvement to the steam-boat landing at London Bridge, 251——The arch suggested by Mr. Laing at the Surrey end of the bridge is already there, 251.

Particulars of the bridge proposed by Mr. Bennoch, 252-256——Reasons why his plan was not carried out, 257-263——Estimated cost of Mr. Bennoch's bridge, 260——The Common Council are willing to contribute liberally to the purchase of Southwark Bridge, 264, 265——It would not be advisable to defray any improvements by a rate, on account of its unpopularity, 266, 267——Alterations that would be necessary to be made in the approaches to Southwark Bridge in the event of its being thrown open, 268-273.

Brand, Mr. Tables delivered in by, *App. p.* 150.

Bridge Commission. See *River Trust.*

Bridge House Committee. Negotiations opened by the committee with the directors of Southwark Bridge for the purchase of that bridge, *Brand* 239-243. 246-248. 274——The committee do not propose to pay for Southwark Bridge in the event of a reasonable offer from the directors, but to press the necessity of the purchase being made by the Government, *ib.* 249, 250.

See also *Bridge House Estates. London Bridge. River Bed. Southwark Bridge.*

Bridge House Estates. There would be no injustice in making the bridge funds bear the expense of the suggested improvements, *Laing* 51-53——Description of the Bridge House Estates, *Brand* 201——They are held in trust by the Corporation for the maintenance of London Bridge, but the Stratford Estate is liable to the repair of two bridges in Essex, *ib.* 201-203——Rental of the Bridge House Estates; charges upon them, *ib.* 204. 206. 210-213——Amount of surplus revenue expended on London and Blackfriars Bridges, *ib.* 207, 208.

See also *Annuities. Bridge House Committee. London, Corporation of.*

Blackfriars Bridge. Charge upon the Bridge House Estates with respect to Blackfriars Bridge, *Brand* 207. 209——The existing incumbrances on the Estates will prevent any further expenditure in repairing Blackfriars Bridge, *ib.* 223-225.

Bridges. Statement as to the bridge accommodation in 1801, and the limited extension made in it since that period, *Bennoch* 324, 325——Statement of the proportions, costs, &c. of the metropolitan bridges, *ib.* 346——The existing bridge accommodation of the metropolis is less than is requisite, *James Walker* 363-365——Relative steepness of Southwark, Blackfriars, and Westminster Bridges, *ib.* 415, 416——An increase in the number of bridges is preferable to widening existing ones, *Maclean* 477-482——Gradients of Blackfriars, Southwark, and Westminster Bridges, *Page* 538-540——Alterations proposed to be made in the traffic way of the bridges, *Baly* 682-685——Bridges could be built now at a sufficiently economical outlay to pay the projectors, *Brunel* 786-788.

See also *Battersea Bridge. Blackfriars Bridge. Bridge House Estates. Charing Cross. Charing Cross Bridge. Cost of Bridges. Ferries. Freeing Bridges. Glasgow. Hammersmith Bridge. Hampton Court Bridge. Horseferry. London Bridge. London, Corporation of. Metropolitan Bridges. Private Enterprise. Purchase of Bridges. Putney Bridge. Richmond Bridge. Rural Bridges. Saint Paul's. Southwark Bridge. Taxation. Traffic. Valuation. Vauxhall Bridge.*

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Bridge Traffic. Amount of traffic over London Bridge, *Laing* 13–17. 23–29——The traffic over London Bridge would be relieved by throwing open Southwark and Waterloo Bridges; witness once suggested the former being opened for a year by way of experiment, *Jones* 100–108. 188——Increase of the traffic over London Bridge; estimated bridge traffic to be provided for, *Bennoch* 323.

Brunel, Isambard Kingdom. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—The Thames tunnel might readily be adapted to heavy traffic, 761——Amount which would have to be laid out in the approaches, 762–765. 775, 776——Manner in which the traffic over London Bridge would be relieved by rendering the tunnel available for heavy traffic, 766——Sum advanced by the Government for the completion of the tunnel, 768, 769——Altering the tunnel for the use of heavy traffic would materially improve the revenue, 770. 774——Dimensions of the tunnel, 771–773.

For the Government to buy the metropolitan bridges and throw them open is objectionable in principle as an interference in legitimate speculation, 777–779——The frequent interference of Government Boards in projected schemes has already checked that commercial enterprise which would have placed half-a-dozen other bridges across the Thames ere this, 780–782——Witness believes that, if the building bridges for the metropolis was left to an unfettered enterprise, their amount would be soon supplied, and that they would pay when erected, 783–785——Bridges could be now built at a sufficiently economical outlay to pay the projectors, 786–788.

Explanation of witness's remark as to the policy of Government Boards, 789–794——Circumstances affecting the present cost of building bridges; the expense is much less than formerly, 795–799——The low height of the new Westminster Bridge is an instance of the latitude Government allows to itself but denies to private individuals, 800–803——Mr. Bennoch's plan for a bridge is a good one, but it will require the neighbourhood at the Surrey end to be altered, 804–807.

Bunning, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is architect to the Corporation of London, 275——The plan for widening London Bridge emanated from witness; description of it, 276–279. 290–292——Steps taken by the Bridge House Committee to obtain Sir John Rennie's opinion upon the plan, 279——Sir John Rennie and Mr. Page are at present investigating the subject, 279, 280. 295, 296. 303.

Additional width proposed to be given to the bridge, 281, 282. 287–289——Estimated cost of the alteration, 283–286——The bridge would be materially lightened thereby, 293, 294——The alteration at the Surrey end of the bridge could be easily effected, 297–300——The widening of the surface will facilitate the traffic, 301, 302.

Bunning, Mr. The objection to Mr. Bunning's plan for widening London Bridge is, its disfigurement of the bridge, *Evans* 734, 735. 738. 740.

Burnell, George Roundell. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Period at which witness called the attention of the Bridge House Committee to the state of the bed of the Thames, 1669, 1670——Alteration that has occurred in the *régime* of the river's bed since 1832; 1670–1674——Witness proposes to fix the bed of the river by erecting a dam; manner in which the dam would be constructed, 1675–1682.

Danger that will ensue to the existing bridges by any increase in the water way, 1683, 1684——Extent to which the erection of any new bridges would operate as a dam, 1685, 1686——No fall would be caused in the water by the dam proposed by witness, 1687–1690.

Burnell, Mr. Plan projected by this gentleman for sustaining the bed of the river by the erection of a dam on the principle of that at Tours, *Tite* 1096–1129.

C.

Castelnau. There is no desire among the inhabitants on the Surrey side of Hammersmith Bridge for its being made free, but rather the contrary, as the toll keeps up the respectability of the neighbourhood, *Boileau* 1595–1600——*See* also *Postal Communications.*

Chaplin & Horne, Messrs. Messrs. Chaplin & Horne use London Bridge to a very large extent, and are likely to do so more at a future period, *Horne* 1196, 1197——They offered to subscribe a year's revenue if the Southwark Bridge Company would throw open their bridge for that period, by way of experiment, *ib.* 1213.

Charing Cross. A new bridge at Charing Cross might be advantageous, if the approaches were wide, *Laing* 60–62——A bridge opening into Trafalgar-square is much to be recommended, *James Walker* 380——Estimate of the cost of a bridge at Charing Cross, *Maclean* 450——Reasons in favour of having new bridges at Charing Cross and the Horseferry, *Page* 516, 517. 524–526. 528–537——Explanation of witness's plan for a bridge at Charing Cross, *ib.* 519–524. 550——Expense at which it might be carried out,

Charing Cross—continued.

Page 527. 560–567——A bridge from Charing Cross would be a great convenience, *Tite* 1035, 1036. 1040, 1041——A bridge at this spot will very speedily become a necessity, *Rep. p.* iv.——*See* also *Sites.*

Charing Cross Bridge:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Alteration and Improvement.*

1. *Generally:*

Rate of increase in the traffic of Charing Cross Bridge since the date of its opening, *Few* 582–585. 608, 609——Relative strength of the bridge, *Baly* 699–703——Description of its foundation, *ib.* 701–712——Statement of traffic, *App. p.* 153.

2. *Alteration and Improvement:*

Alterations projected in the bridge, *Few* 579. 587–590. 593. 629, 630——Cost expected to be incurred in constructing a carriage way, *ib.* 586–592——Considerations given to the proposed alterations, *ib.* 591——Capital proposed to be raised for effecting the improvements, *ib.* 614, 615——Estimated revenue after the improvements are carried out, *ib.* 616. 618——It is quite possible to adapt a carriage road to that bridge, *Baly* 673–675. 678, 679——Estimated cost of the improvements, *ib.* 674. 688, 689——Width proposed to be given to the bridge, *ib.* 676, 677——It will be more economical to enlarge the present bridge than to build another, *ib.* 686, 687——Witness hands in documents to illustrate the proposed alteration of Charing Cross Bridge into a carriage bridge, *ib.* 1216, 1217——Explanation of the plans of the projected improvements delivered in by Mr. Baly, *App. p.* 171.

See also *Bills. Charing Cross Bridge Company. Freeing Bridges. Hungerford Market. Money Market. Routes. Tolls. Traffic.*

Charing Cross Bridge Company. Balance of money at present in the company's hands, *Few* 580, 581——Capital raised up to this date, for the purposes of Charing Cross Bridge, *ib.* 610–613.

See also *Charing Cross Bridge. Exemption from Rates.*

Chase, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—The original cost of Putney Bridge was about 30,000 *l.*, 1629——Accounts showing the gross and net receipts of Putney Bridge, 1630, 1631——Amount of dividend paid, 1632, 1633——Value of the shares, 1634——The bridge is in good repair, 1635——The impediments to the navigation at Putney Bridge do not arise from the bridge, but the alterations in the bed of the river, and consequent shallowness of the water, 1631–1641.

Clyde. Difference in the width of the Clyde and of the Thames, *Bennoch* 349.

Coal Duty. District within which the coal duty might fairly be levied; effects of the duty in excluding cheap coal, *Laing* 45–50——The poorer classes are the most aggrieved by the coal-tax; amount to which it enhances the price of coal, *ib.* 68–76. 87–94——Erroneous impressions prevailing as to the coal-tax; various alterations made in its amount, *Jones* 136–138——Expediency of defraying the purchase of Southwark Bridge from the coal-tax, *Evans* 722–733——Return of the amount annually received in respect of the coal duty, *App. p.* 148.——*See* also *Taxation.*

Common Council. The Common Council are willing to contribute liberally to the purchase of Southwark Bridge, *Brand* 264, 265.

Concentration of Traffic. Excessive amount of traffic over London Bridge, *Salomons* 638, 639——Points in the city where the traffic is more particularly concentrated, *ib.* 659.

See also *London Bridge. Parliament Street.*

Consolidated Fund. See *Taxation.*

Corporation of Kingston. See *Kingston, Corporation of.*

Corporation of London. See *London, Corporation of.*

Cost of Bridges. Circumstances affecting the present cost of building bridges; the expense is much less than formerly, *Brunel* 795–799.——*See* also *Glasgow.*

County Rate. See *Taxation.*

Crown, The. The Act 23 Geo. 3, under which Hampton Court Bridge was built, empowers the Crown to redeem the bridge twenty-six years after its erection, *Guy* 1218–1224——The power of purchase still rests in the Crown, *ib.* 1237–1242.

Crystal Palace. The opening of the Crystal Palace will produce a favourable influence on the receipts of Vauxhall Bridge, *Williams* 1188–1190.

213

D.

Dam. See *River Bed.*

Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's. The Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's are the principal land proprietors on the Surrey side of Hammersmith Bridge, *Boileau* 1604, 1605.

Distribution of Traffic. The remedy for the inconvenience arising from the concentration of traffic is to distribute it more generally, *Salomons* 640——Manner in which the traffic might be distributed, *ib.* 660–663.

Diversion of Traffic. A diversion of the traffic passing on the northern side of the river should be made to the Surrey side, *Salomons* 641–644.

Dresden. The plan of dividing Southwark Bridge proposed by the North Kent Railway Company is in successful operation at Dresden, *Tite* 1073–1077.

E.

Earl Street. The sum proposed for making a new street to Earl-street, Blackfriars, would be better applied in building a bridge at St. Paul's, *Bennoch* 321.

Egham. See *Staines.*

Essex. See *Bridge House Estates.*

Evans, Jeremiah. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—The immediate opening of Southwark Bridge is required to relieve the traffic over London Bridge, 713–717. 736. 757, 758——Witness believes the negotiations for purchasing Southwark Bridge, to have failed from the large sum asked for it, 718–721——Expediency of defraying the purchase of the bridge from the coal tax, 722–733——The objection to Mr. Bunning's plan for widening London Bridge is its disfigurement of the bridge, 734, 735. 738. 740——The widening of London Bridge would not sufficiently relieve the traffic, 737. 741–744. 759, 760——It would be necessary, in the event of the plan of widening being adopted, to widen the approaches also, 745–751——It is very desirable that a new street should be made from the Town Hall in the Borough to the New Cut, 752–754——Mr. Bennoch's plan for a bridge is rather before the requirements of the day, 755, 756.

Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners. Amount of debt still owing to the Commissioners on account of Kingston Bridge, *Guy* 1257–1265.——*See* also *Taxation.*

Exchequer Bills. The purchase of the bridges should be raised by Exchequer bills granted on the security of a rate to be created, and by a contribution from the Corporation, *Salomans* 652–654.

Exemption from Rates. The Charing Cross Bridge Company contemplate claiming an exemption from rates and taxes for this bridge, *Few* 624.

F.

Ferries. Advisability of establishing ferries below London Bridge, after the plan adopted over the Hudson at New York, *Bennoch* 326–332.

Few, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is chairman of the Charing Cross Bridge Company, 571, 572. 627, 628——Statement of the traffic over the bridge, 573–578——Alterations projected in Charing Cross Bridge, 579. 587–590. 593. 629, 630——Balance of money at present in the company's hands, 580, 581——Rate of increase in the traffic of Charing Cross Bridge since the date of its opening, 582–585. 608, 609——Cost expected to be incurred in constructing a carriage way, 586. 592——Consideration given to the proposed alterations, 591.

The toll proposed to be imposed will be no impediment to the traffic, 594–596. 602——Amount of weekly traffic over Westminster Bridge, 597–601——Advantages in respect to distances of Charing Cross Bridge over Westminster and Waterloo Bridges, 600–607——Capital raised, up to this date, for the purposes of Charing Cross Bridge, 610–613——Capital proposed to be raised for effecting the improvements, 614, 615——Estimated revenue after the improvements are carried out, 616. 618——The existing bridge will relieve the company from the expense of building a new one, 617——State of the Bill for carrying out the proposed alterations, 619, 620——The present condition of the money market will not admit of the money being raised for this purpose, 621–623——The company contemplate claiming an exemption from rates and taxes for the bridge, 624——

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Few, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

The directors are prepared to bring a railway over the bridge whenever they have a suitable offer, 625, 626——Extent to which the improvements in Charing Cross Bridge will affect Hungerford Market, 631-633——Witness believes the lowest tender for Westminster Bridge to be 200,000 *l.*, 634-636.

Few, Mr. Paper furnished by, as to Charing Cross Bridge, *App. p.* 153.

Foot Passengers. Number of foot-passengers annually using Kingston Bridge; sum raised in tolls, *Gould* 1321, 1322——The foot-traffic at London Bridge could be relieved by better piers on the Surrey side, and an additional arch to supersede crossing on the bridge, *Laing* 11-13. 35-39.

Foundations. Mode of construction adopted with regard to the foundation of Waterloo, Southwark, and London Bridges, *Plews* 827-830——It was not supposed, at the time London Bridge was projected, that the increased scour would have so serious an effect upon the foundations of the other bridges, *Tite* 1125-1129——Advantage of rock foundations for bridges, *Page* 1148-1153——Danger that will ensue to the existing bridges by any increase in the water way, *Burnell* 1683, 1684.

Frauds. The frauds of carters in charging tolls to their masters without having used the bridge is prevented now by issuing tickets, *Plews* 907, 908.

Freeing Bridges. All the toll-paying bridges ought to be thrown open, *Salomans* 645-647. 651——If Southwark Bridge were made free it would divide the traffic with London Bridge, *Leith* 1027-1029——Advisability of purchasing and throwing open Charing Cross Suspension Bridge, *Tite* 1042, 1043.——*See* also *Taxation.*

Fulham. See *Petitions.*

G.

Gemmet, Charles Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness hands in the Kingston Bridge Act, and the annual account for the last year, 1642-1645——The Kingston people are anxious for the abolition of the bridge toll, but they have never considered how they should prefer to be rated for that purpose, thinking that the Woods and Forests Commissioners could wipe out the debt with the Exchequer Loan Commissioners, 1646-1649.

Glasgow. Additions lately made to the number of bridges at Glasgow; a comparison with the population of that city with London shows that it is better provided with bridge accommodation, *Bennoch* 345, 346——Cost of the Glasgow bridges, *ib.* 347, 348.

See also *Tolls.*

Gould, Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is mayor of Kingston, 1303——Original cost of constructing Kingston Bridge; amount of Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners' advance which has been repaid, 1304-1308. 1338, 1339——Injurious operation of the toll levied at Kingston Bridge, 1309——The coal tax would be the most desirable source from which to derive the purchase money for the toll-paying bridges, 1310-1317——The coal tax is so imperceptibly levied, and so small in amount, that it is the least objectionable manner of raising money, 1318-1320.

Number of foot passengers annually using Kingston Bridge; sum raised in tolls, 1321, 1322——The operation of the toll is in the nature of a very heavy tax on the surrounding neighbourhood, 1323——Tolls stipulated to be levied at the letting of the tolls by the Corporation, 1324-1326——Difficulty of reducing the tolls; there is an estate belonging to the bridge, the revenue of which is sufficient to cover the ordinary expenses of lighting, &c., 1327-1330——Sum for which Hampton Court Bridge might be purchased, 1331-1337——A sufficient sum for purchasing the country bridges could be raised by a penny rate on the two counties, 1340-1343.

Government, The. Sum advanced by the Government for the completion of the Thames Tunnel, *Brunel* 768, 769.

See also *Hampton Court Bridge. Kew Bridge. Private Enterprise.*

Government Departments. The frequent interference of Government Boards in projected schemes has already checked that commercial enterprise which would have placed half-a-dozen bridges over the Thames ere this, *Brunel* 780-782——Explanation of witness's remark as to the policy of Government Boards, *ib.* 789-794——The low height of the New Westminster Bridge is an instance of the latitude Government allows to itself but denies to private individuals, *ib.* 800-803.

Guy, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—The Act of 23 Geo. 3, under which Hampton Court Bridge was built empowers the Crown to redeem the bridge 26 years after its erection, 1218-1224——Very exorbitant tolls are levied at this bridge, 1225-1229——And the effect is to turn a large amount of traffic into another direction, 1230——Price given

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Guy, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)— *continued.*

given for the bridge by the present proprietor, 1231, 1232——The Crown has never offered to purchase the bridge, 1233, 1234——The bridge is considered to be in a very unsound state, 1235, 1236——The power of purchase still rests in the Crown, 1237–1242.

The amount derived from the tolls of the Hampton Court Bridge at the present time is estimated at 1,500 *l.* per annum, 1241–1243——The inhabitants on both sides of the river are anxious for the bridge to be opened, 1244——Dangerous state of Hampton Court Bridge, 1245, 1246——Amount of traffic over Kingston Bridge, 1247–1250——This bridge is built of stone, and is in substantial condition, 1251, 1252——It was built under an Act of Parliament, 1253–1255——A free bridge existed at Kingston before the erection of the present toll one, but it was in a very dangerous condition latterly, 1256.

Amount of debt still owing on account of Kingston Bridge to the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners, 1257–1265——Meetings held at divers places to discuss the abolition of tolls on the country bridges on the Thames; the desire of having the coal tax applied to this purpose was universal, 1266–1272——A penny rate on the counties of Surrey and Middlesex would raise a sufficient sum for buying up the country bridges, 1273–1275——Manner in which the money was raised for building the several country bridges, 1276–1282——Sum realised annually by Kingston and Hampton Court Bridges, 1283.

Objections to the toll system of the bridges at Kingston and Hampton Court, 1284——Kingston Bridge is under the management of the Corporation of Kingston, 1285——Area within which it would be equitable to levy a rate for bridge purposes, 1286–1302.

H.

Hammersmith Bridge. Financial history of the bridge, *Boileau* 1576–1579. 1586. 1588–1592. 1621——The bridge itself cost 50,000 *l.*, but the purchase of approaches and other expenses brought the original expenditure up to 85,000 *l.*, *ib.* 1578, 1579——The gross revenue for last year was 3,700 *l.*, and the expense, 1,500 *l.*, *ib.* 1581–1586. 1618——There is no debt, *ib.* 1587——Rate at which the income from tolls is annually increasing, *ib.* 1593——Amount of the dividends, *ib.* 1594——Tolls levied on Hammersmith Bridge, *ib.* 1601, 1602——The bridge is in a thoroughly sound state, *ib.* 1603. 1617——Table showing the annual income for every year since the bridge was built, *ib.* 1619–1621.

See also *Castelnau. Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's.*

Hammersmith, Inhabitants of. The Hammersmith people have no particular grounds for desiring the abolition of the toll; it does not practically prevent their tradespeople from serving customers on the Surrey side of the river, *Boileau* 1606–1611.

Hampton. See *Petitions. Taxation.*

Hampton Court Bridge:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Value and Revenue.*

1. *Generally:*

The inhabitants on both sides of the river are anxious for the bridge to be opened, *Guy* 1244——The bridge is considered to be in a very unsound and dangerous state, *ib.* 1235, 1236. 1245, 1246——Act under which Hampton Court Bridge was built, *Jackson* 1527–1531——Extent to which the property in the neighbourhood of Hampton Court is injuriously affected by the toll, *ib.* 1534——Manner in which the inhabitants are personally inconvenienced by the toll, *ib.* 1536. 1542–1544——Dilapidated state of the bridge, *ib.* 1537. 1545, 1546——The toll falls with peculiar hardship upon the poorer classes and also upon all workpeople, *Woodward* 1807——It diverts money from charitable and educational uses, as the money is spent in toll which would otherwise be applied to those purposes by persons who are obliged to cross the bridge to go to church, *ib.* 1807——It acts also as a tax upon all food brought over the bridge, *ib.* 1807——Extract from the Act for building this bridge, *App. p.* 170.

2. *Value and Revenue:*

Price given for the bridge by the present proprietor, *Guy* 1231, 1232——Very exorbitant tolls are levied at this bridge, 1225–1229——The amount derived from the tolls of the Hampton Court Bridge at the present time is estimated at 1,500 *l.* per annum, *ib.* 1241–1243——Sum for which Hampton Court Bridge might be purchased, *Gould* 1331–1337; *Jackson* 1538–1541.

See also *Kingston Bridge. Railway. Tolls.*

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Hare, Evan. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is the solicitor of Putney parish, 1373——Witness is not prepared with any information as to Putney Bridge, 1374-1376——Henry Chasemore is secretary to the company, 1377, 1378——There is no engineer, 1379–1381——The inhabitants of Putney are desirous for the removal of the toll, 1382–1385.

[Second Examination.]—Since witness's last examination the inhabitants of Putney have held a meeting, and come to a resolution that the most equitable way of raising money for the redemption of the bridges would be by a county rate and not the coal tax, with an exception, however, as to the latter tax, 1622-1626——The market price of the bridge is about 70,000 *l.*; 1627, 1628.

Horne, Benjamin Worthy. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Messrs. Chaplin & Horne use London Bridge to a very large degree, and are likely to do so more at a future period, 1196, 1197——General direction taken by the traffic between the railway stations on either side of the water; it would be greatly facilitated by throwing open Southwark Bridge, 1198, 1199——The advantages of a bridge lower down the river than Southwark Bridge would not be so great as opening that bridge, 1200–1211——St. Paul's would not be a good position for a bridge, 1212——Messrs. Chaplin & Horne offered to subscribe a year's revenue if the Southwark Bridge Company would throw open their bridge for that period, by way of experiment, 1213——The approaches on the Surrey side of the bridge require some improvement, 1214, 1215.

Horne. See *Chaplin & Horne, Messrs.*

Horseferry. Estimate of the cost of a bridge at the Horseferry, *Maclean* 450——Objections to Mr. Maclean's plan for a bridge at the Horseferry, *Page* 518——Expense of making a bridge at the Horseferry, *ib.* 527. 560. 567——The erection of new bridges at Horseferry and the City is to be preferred to buying Vauxhall and Southwark Bridges, *ib.* 541-547. 568-570.——*See* also *Charing Cross.*

Hungerford Market. Extent to which the improvements in Charing Cross Bridge will affect Hungerford Market, *Few* 631-633——Manner in which it is proposed to alter the market, *Baly* 690–695.

J.

Jackson, Francis. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Act under which Hampton Court Bridge was built, 1527–1531——Witness is of opinion that the inhabitants of his district would be willing to contribute their quota of taxation towards opening all the metropolitan bridges, 1532, 1533——Extent to which the property in the neighbourhood of Hampton Court Bridge is injuriously affected by the toll, 1534——Manner in which the inhabitants are personally inconvenienced by the toll, 1536. 1542–1544——Dilapidated state of Hampton Court Bridge, 1537. 1545, 1546——Sum at which the bridge might be redeemed, 1538–1541——Inconvenience arising from the toll at Kingston Bridge, 1542, 1543.

Janson, Frederick Halsey. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is solicitor to Battersea Bridge, 1713——There are no documents which show the original cost of Battersea Bridge, 1714–1718——There are now thirteen shareholders, and they divide between 400 *l.* and 500 *l.* each, 1719. 1721. 1739——Circumstances under which Battersea Bridge was built, 1722–1727——Sum which the shares fetched on the last occasion of a sale, 1728–1732.

Manner in which the shares first arose, 1733–1735——Particulars as to the last sale of a share, the property comprehended in a share, and the nature of the title to it, 1736–1738. 1740–1744——Manner in which the business is conducted at the meetings of the proprietors, 1745–1751——There is a fixed scale of tolls, 1752, 1753——The Act contains no clause as to the purchase of the bridge for the benefit of the public, 1755–1758.

Manner in which the shares are transferred, 1759, 1760——The Act of Parliament enabled Lord Spencer, the owner of the ferry at Battersea, to build the bridge, and in 1771 he conveyed it to fifteen proprietors, who subsequently reduced their number to thirteen, 1761–1765.

Jones, Richard Lambert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness was chairman to the committee that built London Bridge, 95–98——The beauty of the bridge would be spoilt by widening the surface, 99, 152, 153——The traffic over the bridge would be relieved by throwing open Southwark and Waterloo Bridges; witness once suggested the former being opened for a year by way of experiment, 100–108. 188——The erection of steamboat piers on the Surrey side of London Bridge would be an infringement of the Act, 109, 110——It would be useless to threw open Southwark Bridge unless the communication with the railway station were improved, 111, 112. 131–133.

Suggestion for a new bridge with approaches starting from St. Paul's, 113–125——The inhabitants of the city are not likely to approve of any direct tax for facilitating the traffic

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Jones, Richard James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

traffic over the bridges, 126–128. 134, 135. 154, 155——Cost of building London Bridge, 129, 130——Erroneous impressions prevailing as to the coal tax; various alterations made in its amount, 136–138——The coal tax is the only source from which the expense of the proposed improvements should be taken, 139–142. 177–180.

Ten or twelve miles is the area within which a tax for the proposed improvements ought to be levied, 143–151——Expediency as to converting Charing Cross Bridge into a bridge for carriages, 156–160——Decrease in the value of Waterloo Bridge; probable disinclination of the inhabitants of the metropolis to submit to a rate for its purchase, 161–173——Desirableness of having a direct street communicating with the Surrey ends of the bridges, 174, 175——Objection to any tax for building a new bridge, 176——Remarks as to Blackfriars and Vauxhall Bridges, 181–187.

Kew. See *Taxation.*

Kew Bridge. Kew Bridge is the property of a Mr. Robinson, *Phillips* 1408, 1409——Present condition of the bridge, *Mason* 1780, 1781——Amount of the receipts of the bridge, *ib.* 1781. 1783. 1785——Amount of the expenses, *ib.* 1782. 1784——Circumstances under which the bridge was purchased by the present proprietor, *ib.* 1785–1789——There is no clause in the Bridge Act to enable the Government to buy it, *ib.* 1790——Advantages of freeing the bridge, *ib.* 1791——Particulars as to the tolls, *ib.* 1793–1795——Particulars as to the shares, *ib.* 1800–1805.

Kingston. See *Kingston, Corporation of.* *Taxation.*

Kingston Bridge:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Tolls and Revenue.*

1. *Generally:*

A free bridge existed at Kingston before the erection of the present toll bridge, but it was latterly in a very dangerous condition, *Guy* 1256——Kingston Bridge is built of stone and is in substantial condition, *ib.* 1251, 1252——It was built under an Act of Parliament, *ib.* 1253–1255——The bridge is under the management of the corporation of that town, *ib.* 1285——Original cost of constructing it; amount of Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners' advance which has been repaid, *Gould* 1304–1308. 1338, 1339——Witness hands in the Kingston Bridge Act, and the annual account for the last year, *Gemmet* 1642–1645.

2. *Tolls and Revenue:*

Sum realised annually by Kingston and Hampton Court Bridges, *Guy* 1283——Tolls stipulated to be levied at the letting of the tolls by the corporation, *Gould* 1324–1326——Difficulty of reducing the tolls; there is an estate belonging to the bridge which is sufficient to cover the ordinary expenses of lighting, &c., *ib.* 1327–1330——The principal grievance in connection with Kingston Bridge is the continuance of the toll over a longer period than was stated at its commencement, *Selfe* 1432–1436——The toll is fixed by the Act of Parliament; difficulty of making the toll less than it already is, *ib.* 1437–1442.

See also *Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners.* *Tolls.* *Traffic.*

Kingston, Corporation of. An account of monies received by the corporation for re-building Kingston Bridge, *App. p.* 163.

Kingston, Inhabitants of. There is an unanimity of opinion in Kingston as to abolishing the tolls and imposing some tax in lieu of them, *Phillips* 1389–1399.

See also *Petitions.*

Kingston-upon-Thames. Account of monies disbursed and paid by the corporation of, on account of Kingston Bridge, *App. p.* 164.——*See* also *Petitions.*

L.

Laing, Samuel, M.P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is chairman of the London and Brighton Railway Company, 1, 2——Insufficient space afforded by London Bridge for the traffic to the railway, 3–7——The inconvenience might be remedied by widening the bridge, and making a new road direct from Westminster Bridge to the station, 8–10. 18–22. 30–32. 43——The foot-traffic could be relieved by better piers on the Surrey side, and an additional arch to supersede crossing on the bridge, 11–13. 35–39——Amount of traffic over the bridge, 13–17. 23–29——It would not improve matters to make Southwark and Waterloo Bridges free, as long as the route was so intricate through Southwark, 33, 34. 57–59——The bridge funds should be made available for improving the bridge,

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Laing, Samuel, M.P. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

40-42——Manner in which money for metropolitan improvements should be raised, 44——District within which the coal duty might fairly be levied; effect of the duty in excluding cheap coal, 45-50.

There would be no injustice in making the bridge funds bear the expense of the suggested improvements, 51-53——Extent to which London is benefited by the accession of railway traffic, 52-55——The construction of another bridge would not effect much good, without the proposed street were made, 56——A new bridge at Charing Cross might, if the approaches were wide, be advantageous, 60-62——Impediments to rendering the Thames Tunnel more available for traffic, 63-65——The direct street through Southwark would probably facilitate the communication with the north part of London by means of Waterloo Bridge, 66, 67——The poorer classes are the most aggrieved by the coal tax; amount to which it enhances the cost of coal, 68-76. 87-94——The expense of local improvements should be borne by the place where they are made, and not by the country, 77-82——Railway companies being already heavily taxed, ought not to be expected to contribute more to improvements than the ordinary assessment of the locality, 83-86.

Laing, Mr. The arch suggested by Mr. Laing at the Surrey end of the bridge is already there, *Brand* 251.

Leith, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is secretary to the Southwark Bridge Company, 1010——Income and expenditure of the company, 1011-1013——Dividends paid, 1014-1017. 1030, 1031——Southwark Bridge would not be much affected by a new bridge from St. Paul's, 1018——Considerations as to trying the experiment of making Southwark Bridge toll-free for a year, 1019, 1020——Increase that ensued in the revenue at the time that London Bridge was building, and on subsequent occasions of its close, 1021-1026——The cheap omnibuses have absorbed the revenue very considerably, 1026——If Southwark Bridge were made free it would divide the traffic with London Bridge, 1027-1029.

Leith, Mr. Paper delivered in by, relative to Southwark Bridge, *App. p.* 158.

Levy, Mr. See *Staines Bridge.*

London Bridge:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Proposed Alteration.*

1. *Generally:*

Insufficient space afforded by London Bridge for the traffic of the railways, *Laing* 3-7——Cost of building the bridge, *Jones* 129, 130——The greatest amount of inconvenience from the concentration of traffic arises at London Bridge, *Rep. p.* iii.

2. *Proposed Alteration:*

The inconvenience might be remedied by widening the bridge, and making a new road direct from Westminster Bridge to the station, *Laing* 10. 18-22. 30-32. 43——The beauty of the bridge would be spoilt by widening the surface, *Jones* 99. 152, 153——The Bridge House Committee are at present considering a plan for widening London Bridge, *Brand* 231-238——The plan for widening the bridge emanated from witness; description thereof, *Bunning* 276-279. 290-292——Sir John Rennie and Mr. Page are at present investigating the subject of widening London Bridge, *ib.* 279, 280. 295, 296. 303——Additional width proposed to be given to the bridge, *ib.* 281, 282. 287-289——Estimated cost of the alteration, *ib.* 283-286——The bridge would be materially lightened by it, *ib.* 293, 294——The alteration on the Surrey side could be easily effected, *ib.* 297-300——The bridge could not be widened as suggested, without destroying its architectural beauty, *James Walker* 402, 403——Advantage that will arise from widening the bridge, *Page* 551-555——The widening of London Bridge would not sufficiently relieve the traffic, *Evans* 737. 741-744. 759, 760——Objections on architectural grounds to the suggested widening of the bridge, *Tite* 1069-1071.

See also *Bridge House Estates.* *Bridge Traffic.* *Bunning, Mr.* *Chaplin & Horne, Messrs.* *Concentration of Traffic.* *Foot Passengers.* *Foundation.* *River Bed.* *Southwark Bridge.* *Taxation.* *Thames Tunnel.* *Traffic.*

London, Corporation of. The Corporation have the option of either widening the present bridge or building a new one, *Brand* 219-222——Expediency of the City purchasing Southwark Bridge, *James Walker* 374——Extent to which the City may be reckoned upon to co-operate in improving the approaches to the bridges, *Salomans* 658——Reasons for which the Corporation do not desire to estimate the value of the Bridge House Estate, *Tyrrell* 1666-1668.

Lower Marsh and New Cut. It would be better to widen and improve the Lower Marsh and the New Cut, than go to the expense of adopting Mr. Pennethorne's plan for a new street, *Tite* 1044-1047.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

M.

Machines. The machines at the toll gates constitute an almost effectual check upon the toll men, but fraud may be committed to a small extent, *Powell* 963–974.

Maclean, John Robinson. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has considered the subject of improving the thoroughfares of the metropolis, 431–436——Inconvenience arising at Bridge-street and Parliament-street by the concentration of the traffic over Westminster Bridge, 436——Witness would obviate this by erecting a bridge at Charing Cross and another at the south end of the Parliament Houses, 437–449. 451–461——Estimate of their cost, 450.

Witness should prefer a new bridge at Charing Cross to purchasing Waterloo Bridge, 462–467——The funds for erecting the bridges could be raised by a rate on the counties of Middlesex and Surrey, 468–473——A rate of two pence in the pound would provide the means of building the two bridges and throwing open the money-paying ones, 474–476——More bridges are preferable to widening existing ones, 477–482.

Mason, Henry Hewett. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Present condition of Kew Bridge, 1780, 1781——Amount of the receipts, 1781, 1783. 1805——Amount of the expenses, 1782. 1784——Circumstances under which Kew Bridge was purchased by the present proprietor, 1785–1789——There is no clause in the Bridge Act to enable the Government to buy it, 1790——Advantages of freeing the bridge, 1791, 1792.

Particulars as to the tolls, 1793–1795——The people of Kew would not object to contribute to a county rate for freeing the bridges, 1796–1799——Particulars as to the shares, 1800–1805.

Metropolis. See *Bridges.*

Metropolitan Bridges. Satisfactory condition of the metropolitan bridges, with the exception of Blackfriars and Westminster, *Rep. p.* iii——Inadequate accommodation afforded by the existing bridges, *ib.*——Proposals in respect of extending the facilities afforded by the present bridges, *ib.*——*See* also *Bridges.*

Middlesex. See *Taxation.*

Money Market. The present condition of the money market will not admit of the money being raised for the improvement of Charing Cross Bridge, *Few* 621–623.

Moulsey. See *Petitions. Taxation.*

Moulsey Bridge. Heavy toll taken at this bridge; objection of the inhabitants to it, *Andrews* 1344–1352——Present condition of the bridge, *ib.* 1372.

N.

Navigation. See *Putney Bridge.*

Negotiations. Witness believes the negotiations for purchasing Southwark Bridge to have failed, from the large sum asked for it, *Evans* 718–721——A negotiation with Government has never been considered at any of the meetings of the Waterloo Bridge Company, *Plews* 893, 894——No negotiations have ever been entered into with Government for the purchase of Waterloo Bridge, *Powell* 982, 983.

New Streets. Expediency of having two new streets in the Borough, in order to distribute the traffic to Southwark Bridge, *Salomons* 664–670——It is very desirable that a new street should be made from the Town Hall in the Borough to the New Cut, *Evans* 752–754.——*See* also *Borough, The. Earl Street. London Bridge.*

New York. See *Ferries.*

North Kent Railway Company. See *Dresden.*

O.

Oliviera, Mr. Number of shares and annuities of the Waterloo Bridge Company which witness believes Mr. Oliviera to be the proprietor, *Powell* 913–919——Mr. Oliviera moved for this inquiry much to the regret of the other directors of the Waterloo Bridge Company, *ib.* 920–922——Letters to, as chairman of the committee, *App. p.* 160.

Omnibuses. The cheap omnibuses have absorbed the revenue of Southwark Bridge very considerably, *Leith* 1026.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

P.

Page, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is a civil engineer, and has an appointment under the Board of Works, 510–512——Situations at which it would be advisable to build new bridges, 513, 514——Improvement of which Southwark Bridge is capable, 515——Reasons in favour of having new bridges at Charing Cross and the Horseferry, 515, 516. 524–526. 528–537——Objections to Mr. Maclean's plan for a bridge at the Horseferry, 518——Explanation of witness's plan for a bridge at Charing cross, 519–524. 550——Expense at which it might be carried out, 527. 560–567——Expense of making a bridge at the Horseferry, 527. 560. 567——Gradients of Blackfriars, Southwark, and Westminster Bridges, 538–540——The erection of new bridges at Horseferry and the City is to be preferred to buying Vauxhall and Southwark Bridges, 541–547. 568–570.

Opinion in favour of a bridge from St. Paul's, 548, 549. 556. 559——Improvement that will be effected at London Bridge by widening it, 551–555.

[Second Examination.]—Explanation of witness's plan for a bridge below London Bridge, 1130–1139——A bridge above London Bridge would not relieve it of the great amount of traffic which flows from the Eastern part of the metropolis, 1140, 1141——Distance of the Thames Tunnel from the bridge proposed by witness, 1142, 1143——Estimate of the expense of the bridge, 1145——Length of the span, 1146, 1147.

Advantage of rock foundations for bridges, 1148–1153——Manner in which the approaches to the bridge on the Surrey side will be arranged, 1154–1164——Considerations as to the height proposed for the bridge, 1165–1170.

Page, Mr. Letter from, to chairman of the committee, *App. p.* 161.

Paris. Bridge accommodation afforded at Paris and Lyons as compared with London, *Bennoch* 342–344.

Parliament Street. Inconvenience arising at Bridge-street, Parliament-street, by the concentration of the traffic over Westminster Bridge, *Maclean* 436——Witness would obviate this by erecting a bridge at Charing Cross, and another at the south end of the Houses of Parliament, *ib.* 437–449. 451–461.

Passengers. The hinderance to passengers over Waterloo Bridge from stopping to pay tolls is very slight; some difficulty arose at the time of opening of the railway; it was obviated, however, by increasing the number of toll-men, *Plews* 890–906.

Paul's, Saint. See *Saint Paul's.* *Taxation.*

Petitions. Copy petitions from corporation of Kingston and the trustees of Kingston Bridge upon the subject of the bridge, *App. p.* 165——From the inhabitants of Kingston, relative to Kingston Bridge, *ib. p.* 166——From the inhabitants of Hampton, relative to Hampton Court Bridge, *ib.*——From the inhabitants of Staines, relative to Staines Bridge, *ib. p.* 167——From the inhabitants of Putney, relative to Putney Bridge, *ib. p.* 168——From the inhabitants of East Moulsey relative to Hampton Court Bridge, *ib.*——From the inhabitants of Fulham relative to Putney Bridge, *ib. p.* 169.

Phillips, Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is acquainted with Kingston Bridge, 1386–1388——There is an unanimity of opinion in the locality as to abolishing the tolls and imposing some tax in lieu of them, 1389–1399——Richmond Bridge was built by a tontine; the only remaining life is eighty years old, 1400–1407——Kew Bridge is the property of a Mr. Robinson, 1408, 1409.

Plews, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Extent of witness's acquaintance with the subject of metropolitan bridges, 808–811—The throwing open the toll-paying bridges would sufficiently relieve the present pressure of traffic, 812——Southwark Bridge ought to be the first thrown open, 812——Circumstances which must regulate any negociation as to the purchase of Waterloo Bridge, 813.

Distinction to be drawn between the shareholders and creditors of Waterloo Bridge, 814. 819–822——Injury done to the latter class by this inquiry, 814. 869–871——Explanation as to the manner in which the liabilities of the Waterloo Bridge Company arose, 815–818. 909–911——Increase of late years in the revenue of the bridge, 823–826——Mode of construction adopted with regard to the foundation of Waterloo, Southwark, and London Bridges, 827–830——No substantial alteration has arisen in the bed of the river since the removal of Old London Bridge, 831–833.

The proper site for a new bridge in the city is between Blackfriars and Southwark Bridges, 834–836——It would be a waste of money to build any new bridge at the west end of London, 837, 838——Sum expended in the construction of Waterloo Bridge, 839–844——Particulars as to the governing body of the company, 845–848——Manner in which the meetings of the shareholders are constituted and their proceedings conducted, 849–853——Income and expenditure of the company, 854–860——The tolls are not let, 861, 862. 890. 892.

This inquiry rather improves the value of the shares, 863–865——Amount of debt owing

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Plews, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

owing to the annuitants of Waterloo Bridge, 866–868——The toll certainly prevents that full use of the bridge of which it is capable, 872–875——The shareholders' interest in the bridge would rise in value if the Committee reported in favour of its purchase, 876–878——The annuitants or creditors would be fairly entitled to an equal participation with the shareholders in the purchase money, 878–882.

The increasing yearly revenue ought to be considered in assessing the purchase money, 882–884——The value of the bridge is what it cost, as no bridge of a similar kind can be built at a less sum, 885, 886——Difficulty of purchasing the creditors' interest in the bridge, 887–889——The hinderance to passengers from stopping to pay toll is very slight; some difficulty arose at the time of the opening of the railway; it was obviated, however, by increasing the number of toll-men, 890–906——A negotiation with Government has never been considered at any of the meetings, 893, 894——Waterloo Bridge would admit of five times the present amount of traffic without any inconvenience, 895. 903——The frauds of carters in charging tolls to their masters without having used the bridge is prevented now by issuing tickets, 907, 908.

Postal Communications. The postal communication with London is not so quick at Castelnau as at Hammersmith, *Boileau* 1612–1616.

Post Office. Facility with which a bridge near St. Paul's might be adapted to the Government and Mr. Sang's design of connecting the railways with the Post-office, *Bennoch* 315, 316.

Powell, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is chief clerk and surveyor of Waterloo Bridge, 912——Number of shares and annuities of the Waterloo Bridge Company, of which witness believes Mr. Oliveira to be the proprietor, 913–919——Mr. Oliveira moved for this inquiry much to the regret of the other directors of the company, 920–922——Statement of the debts and liabilities of the company, 923–932.

Particulars as to the cost of Waterloo Bridge, 933–939. 955——Monies raised at different periods for defraying same, 940–943. 956–959——Per-centage payable on the annuities, 944–947——Distribution made of the annuities amongst the shareholders, 948–954——The machines at the toll-gates constitute an almost effectual check upon the toll-men, but fraud may be practised to a slight extent, 963–974——Particulars as to the receipts and expenditure of the company, 975–981.

No negotiations have ever been entered into with Government for the purchase of the bridge, 982, 983——Copy of the answer of the Duke of Wellington to an application by a Mr. Cope on the subject of abolishing tolls on the metropolitan bridges, 984.

Powell, Mr. Paper delivered in by, relative to Waterloo Bridge, *App. p.* 154.

Private Enterprise. For the Government to buy the metropolitan bridges and throw them open, is objectionable as an interference with legitimate speculation, *Brunel* 777–779——Witness believes that if the building bridges for the metropolis was left to an unfettered enterprise, their want would soon be supplied, and that they would pay when erected, *ib.* 783–785.——*See* also *Government Departments.*

Public Meetings. Meetings held at divers places to discuss the abolition of tolls on the country bridges over the Thames; the desire of having the coal tax applied to this purpose was universal, *Guy* 1266–1272.

Purchase of Bridges. There would be a stronger indisposition to buying up bridges than to building a new one, although the latter would be viewed in an objectionable light, *Tyrrell* 195——Favourable opportunity now offered for purchasing the bridges, *James Walker* 372.

See also *Bridge House Committee. Exchequer Bills. Freeing Bridges. Hampton Court Bridge. Private Enterprise. Southwark Bridge. Taxation.*

Putney. Resolution come to by a meeting at, on the subject of taxation for bridge purposes, *App. p.* 165.——*See* also *Petitions. Taxation.*

Putney Bridge. The market price of this bridge is about 70,000 *l.*, *Hare* 1627, 1628——The original cost of Putney Bridge was about 30,000 *l.*, *Chase* 1629——Accounts showing the gross and net receipts, *ib.* 1630, 1631——Amount of dividends paid, *ib.* 1632, 1633——The bridge is in good repair, *ib.* 1633——Value of the shares, *ib.* 1634——The impediments to the navigation of the Putney Bridge do not arise from the bridge, but from the alterations of the bed of the river and consequent shallowness of the water, *ib.* 1631–1641.

Putney Bridge Company. Henry Chasemore is secretary to the company, *Hare* 1377, 1378——There is no engineer, *ib.* 1379–1381.

Putney, Inhabitants of. The inhabitants are desirous for the removal of the toll from the bridge, *Hare* 1382–1385.

Pym, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness delivers in a copy of his scheme, called a superway, for relieving the traffic of the metropolis, 1032.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

R.

Railway Companies. Railway companies being already heavily taxed, ought not to be expected to contribute more to improvements than the ordinary assessment of the locality, *Laing* 83-86.

Railways. The Charing Cross Bridge directors are prepared to bring a railway over the bridge whenever they have a suitable offer, *Few* 625, 626——The span of Charing Cross Bridge would have to be reduced to enable it to bear a railway, *Baly* 696-698——Witness apprehends that the railway company have the power of making another bridge at Hampton Court, *Woodward* 1807.——*See* also *Charing Cross Bridge.*

Railway Termini. Advisability of bringing the termini of the South Western and the South Eastern Railways to the foot of the proposed bridge at St. Paul's, *Bennoch* 356.

See also *Approaches.*

Railway Traffic. Inconvenience occasioned at London and Westminster Bridges by the large amount of traffic to the railway termini, *Rep. p.* iv.

Rates. See *Taxation.*

Rennie, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Southwark Bridge is perfectly sound in every respect, 985-989——It is very desirable that it should be thrown open, 990, 991——Amount expended in its erection, 992——The bridge is capable of bearing any additional traffic that would arise on its being thrown open, 993, 994——Witness hands in a report recently made by him on the condition of the bridge, 995.

Rennie, Mr. Letter from, to the Chairman of the Committee, relative to Southwark Bridge, *App. p.* 160.

Rennie, Sir John. Steps taken by the Bridge House Committee to obtain the opinion of Sir John Rennie upon the plan for widening London Bridge, *Bunning* 279.

Richmond. See *Taxation.*

Richmond Bridge. Richmond Bridge was built by a tontine; the only remaining life is eighty years old, *Phillips* 1400-1407——Date of the erection of Richmond Bridge, *Smith* 1547, 1548——It was built under the power of a private Act of Parliament, *ib.* 1549, 1550——Sum expended in its erection, *ib.* 1551——Manner in which the funds were raised, *ib.* 1552——There are three lives of the tontine now living, but they are above eighty years of age and when they drop, the bridge will be free, *ib.* 1552, 1553——A sum of 14,000 *l.* is already invested, the interest of which will be sufficient to keep the bridge in repair, *ib.* 1554-1559. 1571——Table showing the receipts from tolls for the last four years, and the rate of toll levied under the Act, *ib.* 1565-1567——The surviving life of the first tontine receives 800 *l.* a year, *ib.* 1568-1570——The steep gradients of the approaches to the bridge are irremediable, *ib.* 1572-1574.

Ritchings, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—The toll on Staines Bridge is a serious injury both to that town and Egham; there is a general desire on the part of the inhabitants for its abolition, 1410——They would not object to a tax over an area of twenty miles around the Post-office for opening all the bridges, 1411-1421——Capital of Staines Bridge; original cost; and annual amount of the tolls, 1422-1431——A Mr. Levy holds the bridge at present as a mortgagee, 1424-1430.

River Bed. No substantial alteration has arisen in the bed of the river since the removal of Old London Bridge, *Plews* 831-833——The change in the bed of the river would be obviated by a dam upon the principle of that at Tours, *Tite* 1096-1113——Decrease which has been occasioned in the depth of the Thames below London Bridge by the removal of the old bridge, *ib.* 1114-1124——Period at which witness called the attention of the Bridge House Committee to the state of the bed of the Thames, *Burnell* 1669, 1670——Alterations that have occurred in the *régime* of the river's bed since 1832, *ib.* 1670-1674——Witness proposes to fix the bed of the river by erecting a dam; manner in which this dam would be constructed, *ib.* 1675-1682——Extent to which the erection of any new bridges would operate as a dam, *ib.* 1685, 1686——No fall would be caused in the water by the dam proposed by witness, *ib.* 1687-1690.

See also *Foundations.*

River Trust. Expediency of establishing a river trust or bridge commission, on the principle of that at Glasgow, *Bennoch* 353.

Routes. Advantages in respect to distance of Charing Cross Bridge over Westminster and Waterloo Bridges, *Few* 600-607.

Rural Bridges. Manner in which the money was raised for building the several country bridges, *Guy* 1276-1282.

S.

SAINT PAUL'S:

1. *Particulars of the Proposed Bridge.*
2. *Opinions in favour.*
3. *Opinions against.*

1. *Particulars of the Proposed Bridge:*

Suggestion for a new bridge, with approaches starting from St. Paul's, *Jones* 113–125——Particulars of the bridge proposed by Mr. Bennoch, *Brand* 252–256——Reasons why the plan was not carried out, *ib.* 257–263——Estimated cost of Mr. Bennoch's bridge, *ib.* 260——Sum at which witness estimates his plan might be carried out, *Bennoch* 305–308. 338, 339——Proposed width of the bridge, *ib.* 309, 310——The estimate is confined to the cost of the bridge, excluding the purchase of ground and houses, *ib.* 314.

2. *Opinions in favour:*

The local advantages for constructing this bridge are very great, *Bennoch* 311–313——Extent to which witness believes his proposed bridge would relieve London Bridge, *ib.* 333–335——Opinion in favour of a bridge from St. Paul's, *Page* 548, 549. 556. 561——Mr. Bennoch's plan for a new bridge is a good one, but it will require the neighbourhood at the Surrey end to be altered, *Brunel* 804–807——Expediency of erecting a bridge at St. Paul's, *Tite* 1037–1039——The bridge at St. Paul's would be required, even supposing Southwark Bridge to be thrown open, *ib.* 1080, 1081——A bridge at this spot will very speedily become a necessity, *Rep. p.* iv.

3. *Opinions against:*

Mr. Bennoch's plan for a new bridge is rather before the requirements of the day *Evans* 755, 756——St. Paul's would not be a good position for a bridge, *Horne* 1212.

See also *Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's. Post Office. Southwark Bridge.*

Salomans, Mr. Alderman. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Extent of witness's knowledge of London streets, 637——Excessive amount of traffic over London Bridge, 638, 639——The remedy for the inconvenience arising from this circumstance, is to distribute the traffic more generally, 640——A diversion of the traffic passing on the northern side of the river should be made to the Surrey side, 641–644——All the toll-paying bridges ought to be thrown open, 645–647. 651——Improvement that would be required in the approaches to Southwark Bridge, 648–650. 664.

The purchase money of the bridges should be raised by Exchequer bills, granted on the security of a rate to be created, and by a contribution from the corporation, 652–654——Limits within which such a rate ought to be raised, 655, 656——Extent to which the city may be reckoned upon to co-operate in improving the approaches to the bridges, 658——Points in the city at which the traffic is more particularly concentrated, 659——Manner in which it might be distributed, 660–663——Expediency of having two new streets in the borough, in order to distribute the traffic to Southwark Bridge, 664–670.

Seine. The limited navigation of the Seine renders the erection of bridges easier than over the Thames, *James Walker* 392, 393.

Selfe, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—The principal grievance in connexion with Kingston Bridge, is the continuance of the toll over a longer period than was stated at its commencement, 1432–1436——The toll is fixed by the Act of Parliament; difficulty of making the toll less than it already is, 1437–1442.

Shares. See *Battersea Bridge. Putney Bridge.*

Sites. Situations where it would be advisable to build new bridges, *Page* 513, 514——The proper site for a new bridge in the City is between Blackfriars and Southwark Bridges, *Plews* 834–836——It would be a waste of money to build any new bridge at the west end of London, *ib.* 837, 838——The sites witness would recommend for additional bridges are at St. Paul's, Essex-street, and the Horseferry; estimated cost of constructing them, *Tite* 1034. 1048, 1049——Sites upon which it would be advisable to erect new bridges if they are found necessary, *Rep. p.* iv.

Smith, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Date of the erection of Richmond Bridge, 1547, 1548——It was built under the powers of a private Act of Parliament, 1549, 1550——Sum expended in its erection, 1551——Manner in which the funds were raised, 1552——There are three lives of the tontines now living, but they are about eighty years of age, and when they drop, the bridge will be free, 1552, 1553——A sum of 14,000*l.* is already invested, the interest of which will be sufficient to keep the bridge in repair, 1554–1559. 1571.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Smith, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

The inhabitants of Richmond have a decided objection to pay any rate for throwing open the other bridges, having already contributed to their own bridge, and not being affected by others, 1560–1564——Table showing the receipts from tolls for the last four years, and the rate of toll levied under the Act, 1565–1567——The surviving life of the first tontine receives 800 *l.* a year, 1568–1570——The steep gradients of the approaches of the bridge are irremediable, 1572–1574.

Smith. Mr. Expenses allowed to this witness, *Rep. p.* x.

Southwark. See *Borough, The.*

SOUTHWARK BRIDGE:

1. *Generally.*
2. *As to Throwing Open.*
3. *Approaches.*

1. *Generally:*

Value of the bridge taken on the amount of the income, *Brand* 240–242——Impediments to throwing open the bridge for a year, as an experiment, *ib.* 244, 245——The bridge suggested by witness can be made at a less expense than will be required to purchase Southwark Bridge, and carry out the improvements in Earl-street, *Bennoch* 337——Improvements of which Southwark Bridge is capable, *Page* 515——The bridge is perfectly sound in every respect, *Rennie* 985–989——Amount expended in its erection, *ib.* 992——Witness hands in a report, recently made by him, on the condition of the bridge, *ib.* 995——Amount which the bridge cost, *Joshua Walker* 997–999——Plan of alteration witness would recommend, *ib.* 1004–1007——No estimate has ever been made of the expense of carrying out the alterations, *ib.* 1008, 1009——Southwark Bridge would not be much affected by a new bridge from St. Paul's, *Leith* 1018——Considerations as to trying the experiment of making Southwark Bridge toll free for a year, *ib.* 1019, 1020——Increase that ensued in the revenue of Southwark Bridge at the time of building London Bridge, and on subsequent occasions of its close, *ib.* 1021–1026.

2. *As to Throwing Open:*

It would not improve matters to make Southwark Bridge free as long as the route is so intricate through Southwark, *Laing* 33, 34. 57–59——The throwing open this bridge will remove the inconvenience more than that of Waterloo, *James Walker* 405. 409, 410——The immediate opening of this bridge is required to relieve the traffic over London Bridge, *Evans* 713–717. 736. 757, 758——Southwark Bridge ought to be the first thrown open, *Plews* 812——It is very desirable that Southwark Bridge should be thrown open, *Rennie* 990, 991——Witness is strongly in favour of the opening of this bridge, as the most effectual remedy for the existing inconvenience, *Tite* 1072–1078.

3. *Approaches:*

Alterations that would be necessary to be made in the approaches to Southwark Bridge in the event of its being thrown open, *Brand* 268–273——The approaches require a large outlay to render them available, *Bennoch* 335–337——Eligibility of the approaches, *James Walker* 381–383——Manner in which the approaches to Southwark Bridge are capable of improvement, *ib.* 410–414. 417–427——Improvement that would be required in the approaches, *Salomons* 648–650. 664——Alterations would be required in the approaches to, *Joshua Walker* 1001–1003——Character of the approaches to Southwark Bridge; they are perhaps open to improvement, *Tite* 1066–1068——The approaches on the Surrey side require some improvement, *Horne* 1214, 1215.

See also *Bridges. Bridge Traffic. Chaplin & Horne, Messrs. Common Council. Dresden. Foundations. London, Corporation of. Negotiations. Omnibuses. Tolls, Tower, The. Traffic.*

Southwark Bridge Company. Income and expenditure of the company, *Leith* 1011–1013——Dividends paid by the Southwark Bridge Company, *ib.* 1014–1017. 1030, 1031——Statement of annual tolls derived by, *App. p.* 158.

Spencer, Lord. The Battersea Bridge Act enabled Lord Spencer, the owner of the ferry at Battersea, to build the bridge; and in 1771 he conveyed it to fifteen proprietors, who subsequently reduced their number to thirteen, *Janson* 1761–1765.

Staines. The toll on Staines Bridge is a serious injury both to that town and Egham; there is a general desire on the part of the inhabitants for its abolition, *Ritchings* 1410——Reasons for which the people of Staines are anxious for the bridge to be made free, *T. Ashby* 1443–1448. 1467–1481——Injury done to the trade of Staines by the existence of the toll on the bridge, *F. Ashby* 1492, 1493.

See also *Petitions. Taxation.*

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Staines Bridge. Capital of Staines Bridge; original cost, and annual amount of the tolls, *Ritchings* 1422–1431——A Mr. Levy holds the bridge at present as a mortgagee, *ib.* 1424–1430——The bridge is now in the possession of a mortgagee, *T. Ashby* 1460–1464——There is no toll on foot passengers, *ib.* 1483–1485——The bridge has been rebuilt five times within the recollection of witness, *ib.* 1486–1488——Particulars as to the funds with which the bridge was built, and also as to the revenue, *ib.* 1449–1459. 1465, 1466. 1482. 1489–1491.

Steam-boat Piers. The erection of steam-boat piers on the Surrey side of London Bridge would be an infringement of the Act, *Jones* 109, 110——Witness proposes an improvement to the steamboat landing at London Bridge, *Brand* 251.

Stephenson, Mr. Report made by him as to Mr. Bennoch's bridge, *Brand* 259.

Stratford Estate. See *Bridge House Estates.*

Street Traffic. Tables showing the amount of, *App. p.* 150.

Superway. Witness delivers in a copy of his scheme, called a "superway," for relieving the traffic of the metropolis, *Pym* 1032.

Surrey. See *Taxation.*

T.

Taxation. Manner in which money for metropolitan improvements should be raised, *Laing* 44——The expense of local improvements should be borne by the place where they are made, and not by the country, *ib.* 77–82——The inhabitants of the City are not likely to approve of any direct tax for facilitating the traffic over the bridge, *Jones* 126–128. 134, 135. 154, 155——The coal-tax is the only source from which the expense of the proposed improvements should be taken, *ib.* 139–142. 177–180——Ten or twelve miles is the area within which a tax for the proposed improvements ought to be levied, *ib.* 143–151——Objection to any tax for building a new bridge, *ib.* 176——The inhabitants of the metropolis are strongly opposed to the imposition of any tax upon them alone for purchasing or throwing open bridges, *Tyrrell* 189–191——It would be considered as a contrivance for relieving those who had entered into a bad speculation, *ib.* 192–194——An extension of the bridge accommodation of the metropolis would be viewed as a benefit to the whole country, and therefore fairly chargeable on the Consolidated Fund, *ib.* 196, 197——It would not be advisable to defray the expense of any improvements by a rate, on account of its unpopularity, *Brand* 266, 267——Manner in which the expense of building the bridge proposed by witness would partly be met, *Bennoch* 351——A rate in aid of the funds for its construction would not be objected to, and it ought properly to be levied on the county, *ib.* 352——A rate levied within a certain radius would be the best method of raising the purchase money, *James Walker* 373. 375——The funds for erecting the bridges could be raised by a rate in the counties of Middlesex and Surrey, *Maclean* 468–473——A rate of two-pence in the pound would provide the means of building the two bridges, and throwing open the money-paying ones, *ib.* 474–476——Limits within which a rate ought to be raised, *Salomans* 655, 656——A small increase of the coal-tax would be the most preferable way of raising funds for extending the bridge accommodation, *Tite* 1057–1062. 1079——Area over which it is equitable to levy a tax for bridge purposes, *ib.* 1082–1092——A penny rate on the counties of Surrey and Middlesex would raise a sufficient sum for buying up the country bridges, *Guy* 1273–1275——Area within which it would be equitable to levy a rate for bridge purposes, *ib.* 1286–1302——The coal-tax would be the most desirable source from which to derive the purchase money for the toll-paying bridges, *Gould* 1310–1317——The coal-tax is so imperceptibly levied, and so small in amount, that it is the least objectionable way of raising money, *ib.* 1318–1320——A sufficient sum for purchasing the country bridges could be raised by a penny rate on the two counties, *ib.* 1340–1343——There is a great willingness to pay a rate to buy up Moulsey Bridge, *Andrews* 1353–1358——The inhabitants of Staines would not object to a tax over an area of twenty miles around the Post-office for opening all the bridges, *Ritchings* 1411–1421——There is a general willingness on the part of the inhabitants of Staines to share in a tax for abolishing tolls on all the bridges, *F. Ashby* 1494–1498——The inhabitants of Walton are favourable to a tax, such as the coal-tax, for removing the tolls from all the bridges, *Wilson* 1517–1523——Witness is of opinion that the inhabitants of Hampton of his district would be willing to contribute their quota of taxation towards opening all the metropolitan bridges, *Jackson* 1532, 1533——The inhabitants of Richmond have a decided objection to pay any rate for throwing open the other bridges, having already contributed to their own bridge, and not being affected by others, *Smith* 1560–1564——Since witness's last examination the inhabitants of Putney have held a meeting, and come to a resolution that the most equitable way of raising money for the redemption of the bridge would be by a county rate, and not the coal-tax, with an exception, however, as to the latter tax, *Hare* 1622–1626——

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Taxation—continued.

1626——The Kingston people are anxious for the abolition of the bridge toll, but they have never considered how they should prefer to be rated for that purpose, thinking that the Woods and Forests Commissioners could wipe out the debt with the Exchequer Loan Commissioners, *Gemmet* 1646–1649——Witness considers that the coal-tax, or any tax raised within the twenty mile area, would be the fairest manner of freeing the bridges, *Tyrrell* 1650–1655. 1662–1665——The people of Kew would not object to contribute to a county rate for freeing the bridges, *Mason* 1796–1799.

See also *Coal Duty. Exchequer Bills. Railway Companies.*

Tayler, Stephen Seaward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Battersea bridge was built under an Act of Parliament of 1766; it is in a good state of repair, 1691–1697——This bridge is fully adequate to the traffic, 1698–1701——The inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the bridge have expressed no opinion as to the desirableness of removing the toll, 1702–1704.

The tolls derived from Battersea Bridge amount to about 6,000 *l.* per annum, 1705–1710——Property belonging to the bridge exclusive of the tolls, 1711, 1712.

Tenders. Witness believes the lowest tender for the Westminster Bridge to be 200,000 *l.*, *Few* 634–636.

Thames Tunnel. Impediments to rendering the Thames Tunnel more available for traffic, *Laing* 63–65——The Thames Tunnel might readily be adapted to heavy traffic, *Brunel* 761——Amount which would have to be laid out in the approaches, *ib.* 762–765. 775, 776——Manner in which the traffic over London Bridge would be relieved by rendering the tunnel available for heavy traffic, *ib.* 766——Altering the tunnel for the use of heavy traffic would materially improve the revenue, *ib.* 770. 774——Dimensions of the tunnel, *ib.* 771–773——Distance of the Thames Tunnel from the bridge proposed by witness, *Page* 1142, 1143.

Tite, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—There is a great want of free bridges in the Metropolis, 1033, 1034——The sites which witness would recommend for additional bridges are at St. Paul's, Essex-street, and the Horseferry; estimated cost of constructing them, 1034. 1048, 1049——A bridge from Charing Cross would be a great convenience, 1035, 1036, 1040, 1041——Expediency of erecting a bridge at St. Paul's, 1037–1039.

Advisability of purchasing and throwing open Charing Cross Suspension Bridge, 1042, 1043——It would be better to widen and improve the Lower Marsh and New Cut than go to the expense of adopting Mr. Pennethorne's plan for a new street, 1044–1047——Manner in which the approaches of the bridge from St. Paul's might be adapted to the existing levels, 1050–1056——A small increase of the coal tax would be the most preferable way of raising funds for extending the bridge accommodation, 1057–1062. 1079.

The toll on Southwark Bridge is the great cause of the limited use made of it, 1063–1065——Character of the approaches, they are perhaps open to improvement, 1066–1068——Objections on architectural grounds to the suggested widening of London Bridge, 1069–1071——Witness is strongly in favour of the opening of Southwark Bridge as the most efficacious remedy for the existing inconvenience, 1072–1078——The plan of dividing the bridge proposed by the North Kent Railway Company is in successful operation at Dresden, 1073–1077.

The bridge at St. Paul's would be required, even supposing Southwark Bridge to be thrown open, 1080, 1081——Area over which it is equitable to levy a tax for bridge purposes, 1082–1092——Blackfriars Bridge is entirely supported by the scaffolding, 1093–1095——The change in the bed of the river could be obviated by a dam upon the principle of that at Tours, 1096–1113——Decrease which has been occasioned in the depth of the Thames below London Bridge by the removal of the old bridge, 1114–1124——It was not supposed at the time London Bridge was projected that the increased scour would have so serious an effect upon the foundations of the other bridges, 1125–1129.

Toll-paying Bridges. The immediate remedy for the evil is to throw open the present toll-paying bridges, *James Walker* 366–371. 400, 401.——*See* also *Valuation.*

Tolls. Tolls levied on the Glasgow Bridges, *Bennoch* 350——The toll proposed to be imposed at Charing Cross Bridge will be no impediment to the traffic, *Few* 594–596. 602——The tolls on Waterloo Bridge are not let, *Plews* 861. 890. 892——The toll certainly prevents that full use of Waterloo Bridge, of which it is capable, *ib.* 872–875——The toll on Southwark Bridge is the great cause of the limited use of it, *Tite* 1063–1065——The effect of the tolls levied at Hampton Court Bridge is to turn a large amount of traffic into another direction, *Guy* 1230——Objections to the toll system of the bridges at Kingston and Hampton Court, *ib.* 1284——Injurious operation of the toll levied at Kingston Bridge, *Gould* 1309——The operation of the toll at Kingston Bridge is in the nature of a very heavy tax on the surrounding neighbourhood, *ib.* 1323——Popular feeling

Tolls—continued.

feeling as to the desirability of getting rid of the toll, *Andrews* 1362–1370——Inconvenience arising from the toll at Kingston Bridge, *Jackson* 1542, 1533——Expediency of removing the existing tolls on the bridges between Staines and London Bridges, *Rep. p.* iii.

See also *Battersea Bridge.* *Charing Cross Bridge.* *Hammersmith Bridge.* *Hampton Court Bridge.* *Kew Bridge.* *Kingston Bridge.* *Moulsey Bridge.* *Southwark Bridge Company.* *Staines Bridge.*

Tontines. See *Richmond Bridge.*

Tower, The. Explanation of witness's plan for a bridge below London Bridge, *Page* 1130–1139——Estimate of the expense of this bridge, *ib.* 1145——Length of the span, *ib.* 1146, 1147——Manner in which the approaches to the bridge on the Surrey side will be arranged, *ib.* 1154–1164——Considerations as to the height proposed for this Bridge, *ib.* 1165–1170——The advantages of a bridge lower down the river than Southwark Bridge would not be so great as throwing that bridge open, *Horne* 1200–1211.

Trafalgar Square. See *Charing Cross.*

Traffic. The widening of the surface will facilitate the traffic of London Bridge, *Bunning* 301, 302——Points from which the traffic converges to London Bridge, *Bennoch* 326——Tables showing the traffic over the various metropolitan bridges, *ib.* 340, 341——London Bridge has the greatest amount of traffic, *James Walker* 404, 405——Statement of the traffic over Charing Cross Bridge, *Few* 573–578——Amount of weekly traffic over Westminster Bridge, *ib.* 597–601——The throwing open the toll-paying bridges would sufficiently relieve the present pressure of traffic, *Plews* 812——Southwark Bridge is capable of bearing any additional traffic that would arise on its being thrown open, *Rennie* 993, 994——The traffic in the eastern part of the metropolis would be much facilitated by making Southwark Bridge free, *Joshua Walker* 1000——A bridge above London Bridge would not relieve it of the great amount of traffic which flows from the eastern part of the metropolis, *Page* 1140, 1141——General direction taken by the traffic between the railway stations on either side of the water; it would be greatly facilitated by throwing open Southwark Bridge, *Horne* 1198, 1199——Amount of traffic over Kingston Bridge, *Guy* 1247–1250——Extent to which the traffic in London streets is diverted and incommoded by the limited bridge accommodation, *Rep. p.* iii.

See also *Charing Cross Bridge.* *Concentration of Traffic.* *Distribution of Traffic.* *Diversion of Traffic.* *Foot Passengers.* *Freeing Bridges.* *Thames Tunnel.*

Tyrrell, Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—The inhabitants of the metropolis are strongly opposed to the imposition of any tax upon them alone for purchasing or throwing open bridges, 189–191. It would be considered as a contrivance for relieving those who had entered into a bad speculation, 192. 194——There would be a stronger indisposition to buying up bridges than for building a new one, although the latter would be viewed in an objectionable light, 195——Such improvements would be viewed as a benefit to the whole country, and therefore fairly chargeable on the Consolidated Fund, 196, 197——Witness does not concur in Mr. Laing's suggestions, 198, 199.

[Second Examination.]—Witness considers that the coal tax or any tax raised within the twenty mile area, would be the fairest manner of freeing the bridges, 1650–1655. 1662–1665——Sources from which the money for the repair of Blackfriars Bridge has been taken, 1656–1661——Reasons for which the corporation do not desire to estimate the value of the Bridge House Estate, 1666–1668.

Tyrrell, Mr. Papers delivered in by, *App. p.* 148.

V.

Valuation. The fairest manner of assessing the sum to be paid for the different bridges would be to throw them open for a year, to ascertain the traffic, *James Walker* 376–379——Basis upon which a valuation should be made of the toll-paying bridges, *ib.* 384–391——Witness does not acquiesce in Mr. Jones's proposal that the companies should throw open the bridges for a year, and so lose the year's revenue by way of experiment, *ib.* 394–399——Circumstances which must regulate the purchase of Waterloo Bridge, *Plews* 813——The increasing yearly revenue of Waterloo Bridge ought to be considered in assessing the purchase money, *ib.* 882–884——The value of Waterloo Bridge is what it cost, as no bridge of a similar kind can be built for a less sum, *ib.* 885, 886.

See also *Putney Bridge.*

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Vauxhall Bridge. Present condition of Vauxhall Bridge, *Williams* 1172——Original cost of this bridge, *ib.* 1174——Annual expense of the repairs, *ib.* 1175——Gross receipts, *ib.* 1176, 1177. 1184-1187.——*See* also *Crystal Palace.*

Vauxhall Bridge Company. The original proprietors receive no interest on their capital, *Williams* 1173——Number of shares; their value; amount of dividend paid on them, *ib.* 1178-1182——Amount of debt of the company, *ib.* 1191-1195.

W.

Walton Bridge. Particulars as to the building of Walton Bridge, *Wilson* 1499-1506. 1526——Amount of traffic, *ib.* 1507, 1508——Extent to which the bridge is avoided, *ib.* 1509-1512——Present revenue of the bridge, *ib.* 1513-1516——Extension of the neighbourhood of Walton and Weybridge now in progress, by building *ib.* 1524, 1525.

Walker, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Particulars as to witness's acquaintance with the subject of bridges, 357-362——The existing bridge accommodation of the metropolis is less than is requisite, 363-365——The immediate remedy for the evil is to throw open the present toll-paying bridges, 366-371. 400, 401——Favourable opportunity now offered for purchasing these bridges, 372——A rate levied within a certain radius would be the best method of raising the purchase money, 373. 375.

Expediency of the City purchasing Southwark Bridge, 374——The fairest manner of assessing the sum to be paid for the different bridges would be to throw them open for a year, to ascertain the traffic, 376-379——A bridge opening into Trafalgar-square is much to be recommended, 380——Eligibility of the approaches to Southwark Bridge, 381-383——Basis upon which a valuation should be made of the toll-paying bridges, 384-391——The limited navigation of the Seine renders the erection of bridges easier than over the Thames, 392, 393——Witness does not acquiesce in Mr. Jones's proposal that the companies should throw open the bridges for a year, and so lose the year's revenue, by way of experiment, 394-399——London Bridge could not be widened, as suggested, without destroying its architectural beauty, 402, 403——This bridge has the greatest amount of traffic, 404, 405——The throwing open Southwark Bridge will relieve the inconvenience more than that of Waterloo, 405-409. 430.

Manner in which the approaches to Southwark Bridge are capable of improvement, 410-414. 417-427——Relative steepness of Southwark, Blackfriars, and Westminster Bridges, 415, 416——Desirableness of improving the communication through the Borough from Waterloo Bridge, 428, 429.

Walker, Joshua. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Is a director of Southwark Bridge, 996——Amount which the bridge cost, 997-999——The traffic in the eastern part of the metropolis would be much facilitated by making the bridge free, 1000——Alterations would be required in the approaches, 1001-1003——Plan of alteration witness would recommend, 1004-1007——No estimate has ever been made of the expense of carrying out these alterations, 1008, 1009.

Walton. See *Coal Duties. Taxation.*

Waterloo Bridge. It would not improve matters to make Waterloo Bridge free, as long as the route is so intricate through Southwark, *Laing* 33, 34. 57-59——Decrease in the value of the bridge; probable disinclination of the inhabitants of the metropolis to submit to a rate for its purchase, *Jones* 161-173——Witness would prefer a new bridge at Charing Cross to purchasing this bridge, *Maclean* 462-467——Increase of late years in the revenue of the bridge, *Plews* 823-826——Sum expended in the construction of the bridge, *ib.* 839-844——Waterloo Bridge would admit of five times the present amount of traffic without any inconvenience, *ib.* 895-903——Particulars as to the cost of the bridge, *Powell* 933-939. 955——Money raised at different periods for defraying the same, *ib.* 940-943. 956-959.

See also *Borough, The. Bridge Traffic. Foundations. Frauds. Machines. Negotiations. Passengers. Southwark Bridge. Taxation. Tolls. Valuation.*

Waterloo Bridge Company. Distinction to be drawn between the shareholders and creditors of Waterloo Bridge, *Plews* 814. 819-822——Injury done to the latter class by this inquiry, *ib.* 814. 869-871——Explanation as to the manner in which the liabilities of the company arose, *ib.* 815-819. 909-911——Particulars as to the governing body of the company, *ib.* 845-848——Manner in which the meetings of the shareholders are constituted, and their proceedings conducted, *ib.* 849-853——Income and expenditure, *ib.* 854-860——This inquiry rather injures the value of the shares, *ib.* 863-865——Amount of debt due to the annuitants, *ib.* 866-868——The shareholders' interest would rise in value if the committee reported in favour of its purchase, *ib.* 876-878——The annuitants or creditors would be fairly entitled to an equal participation with the shareholders

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Waterloo Bridge Company—continued.

holders in the purchase money, *Plews* 878–882——Difficulty of purchasing the creditors' interest in Waterloo Bridge, *ib.* 887–889——State of the debts and liabilities of the company, *Powell* 923–932——Per-centage payable on the annuities, *ib.* 944–947——Distribution made of the annuities amongst the shareholders, *ib.* 948–954——Particulars as to the receipt and expenditure of the company, *ib.* 975–981; *App. p.* 154.

Wellington, Duke of. Copy of the answer of the Duke of Wellington to an application by a Mr. Cope on the subject of abolishing tolls on the metropolitan bridges, *Powell* 984.

Westminster Bridge. A contract having been entered into for rebuilding this bridge, the Committee do not consider it within their province to report upon it, *Rep. p.* iii——Inconvenience occasioned at Westminster Bridge by the traffic to the railway termini, *ib.* iv.

See also *Bridges. Government Departments. Tenders. Traffic.*

Williams, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is a director of Vauxhall Bridge, 1171——Present condition of the bridge, 1172——The original proprietors receive no interest on their capital, 1173——Original cost of Vauxhall Bridge, 1174——Annual expense of the repairs, 1175——Gross receipts, 1176, 1177. 1184–1187——Number of shares, and their value; amount of dividend paid on them, 1178–1182——The opening of the Crystal Palace will produce a favourable influence on the receipts of Vauxhall Bridge, 1188–1190——Amount of the company's debt, 1191–1195.

Wilson, Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Particulars as to the building of Walton Bridge, 1499–1506. 1526——Amount of traffic, 1507, 1508——Extent to which the bridge is avoided, 1509–1512——Present revenue, 1513–1516——The inhabitants of Walton are favourable to a tax, such as the coal tax, for removing the tolls from all the bridges, 1517–1523——Extension of the neighbourhoods of Walton and Weybridge now in progress by building, 1524, 1525.

Woodward, Reverend Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at East Moulsey' 1806——Hampton Court Bridge toll falls with peculiar hardship upon the poorer classes' and also upon workpeople, 1807——It diverts money from charitable and educational uses, as the money is spent in toll which would otherwise be applied to those purposes by persons who are oblige to cross the bridge to go to church, 1807——It acts also as a tax upon all food brought over the bridge, 1807——Witness apprehends that the railway company have the power of making another bridge, 1807.

Woods and Forests. See *Taxation.*

231

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

PUBLIC HOUSES;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
13 *July* 1854.

Lunæ, 20° *die Februarii*, 1854.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to examine into the System under which Public Houses, Hotels, Beershops, Dancing Saloons, Coffee Houses, Theatres, Temperance Hotels, and Places of Public Entertainment, by whatever Name they may be called, are Sanctioned, and are now Regulated, with a view of Reporting to this House whether any Alteration or Amendment of the Law can be made for the better Preservation of Public Morals, the Protection of the Revenue, and for the proper Accommodation of the Public.

Committee nominated of,—

Mr. William Brown.
The Judge Advocate.
Sir George Goodman.
Sir George Grey.
The Earl of March.
Sir John Pakington.
Mr. Beckett.
Mr. Barrow.
Mr. Gregson.
Lord Dudley Stuart.
Lord Ernest Bruce.
Mr. Packe.
Mr. Sotheron.
Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Ker Seymer.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 13° *die Julii*, 1854.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to Report their Opinion and Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House.

REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. iii.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE - - - - - - p. xxviii.
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - - p. 1.
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 284.
INDEX - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 293.

233

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to examine into the System under which PUBLIC HOUSES, HOTELS, BEERSHOPS, DANCING SALOONS, COFFEE HOUSES, THEATRES, TEMPERANCE HOTELS, and Places of Public Entertainment, by whatever Name they may be called, are Sanctioned and are now Regulated, with a view of Reporting to this House whether any Alteration or Amendment of the Law can be made for the better Preservation of Public Morals, the Protection of the Revenue, and for the Proper Accommodation of the Public; and who were empowered to Report their Opinion and Observations, together with the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them, to THE HOUSE;——HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:

YOUR Committee have devoted a considerable time, both in the last and present Session of Parliament, to the several matters referred to them, and which have of necessity involved a very extended inquiry.

The licensing system has necessarily constituted a leading branch of the investigation. Your Committee have called before them the chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, several borough and county magistrates, the Chief Commissioners of the Metropolitan and City Police, superintendents of police in the provincial towns, and parties interested in the system as brewers, licensed victuallers, beersellers, and their authenticated representatives.

Division of licences.

Apart from distillers and brewers, the persons, either by licence, or some equivalent sanction, entitled to supply the public with intoxicating liquors, seem to be comprised under the following heads: wholesale wine dealers, wholesale spirit dealers, wholesale beersellers, victuallers or publicans, beerhouse-keepers to have drinking on the premises, beerhouse-keepers not to have drinking on the premises, three-halfpenny table-beer-sellers who are not required to have a licence, cider and perry sellers, free vintners who claim, as a privilege of the Vintners' Company, to sell anywhere in the kingdom wine to be used on the premises without licence, proprietors of theatres who, owing to a legal difficulty, are allowed to sell excisable liquors for use on the premises without licence, and grocers and others licensed to retail sweets, made wines, mead, or metheglin. The licence to sell by wholesale is obtained from the Board of Inland Revenue, or Collectors of Excise. The duty upon the wine and spirit licences is, for each, 10 guineas, and for bottled beer three guineas.

Wholesale wine, spirits, and beer.

Wholesale dealers are restricted from selling spirits in any less quantity than two imperial gallons, and bottled beer in less than 24 reputed quarts, under a penalty of 50 *l.*, with power to the justices to remit to 12 *l.* 10 *s.*, but not below that amount; they can, however, under the 11th & 12th Vict, c. 121, s. 9, known as the "Maraschino Act," take out a retail liqueur licence, the duty upon which is two guineas, and which enables them to sell a single bottle of any foreign liqueur.

Publicans. Retail.

Licensed victuallers obtain, in the first instance, a certificate from the magistrates, stating that such an one shall be licensed and empowered to sell under the authority of the Act of Parliament, on the production of which, and payment of

the duty, the Board of Inland Revenue give the licence. No bond or surety is required, and officers of the Excise have no inquiries to make, and have no option.

The amount paid for the licence is determined by the rating according to the following scale :—

	RATE OF DUTY.		
	£.	s.	d.
Duty on publicans' licences varies with rating. Publicans for Retailing Beer :			
Whose premises are rated under 20 *l.* per annum - - - -	1	2	–½
„ - - at 20 *l.* and upwards - - - -	3	6	1¾
Publicans for Retailing Spirits :			
Whose premises are rated under 10 *l.* per annum - - - -	2	4	1
„ - - at 10 *l.* and under 20 *l.* - - -	4	8	2¼
„ - - at 20 *l.* „ 25 *l.* - - -	6	12	3½
„ - - at 25 *l.* „ 30 *l.* - - -	7	14	4
„ - - at 30 *l.* „ 40 *l.* - - -	8	16	4¾
„ - - at 40 *l.* „ 50 *l.* - - -	9	18	5¼
„ - - at 50 *l.* and upwards. - - -	11	–	6

Magistrates' certificate.

The justices grant the certificates at the annual general licensing meetings, held pursuant to the 9th Geo. 4, c. 61, s. 1, in the counties of Middlesex and Surrey within the first 10 days of March, and in every other county on some day between the 20th of August and the 14th of September inclusive. All licences are required to be granted or renewed annually. As to licensed victuallers, they are, upon compliance with certain forms, issued or withheld solely at the discretion of the licensing magistrates. The wording of the Act is, "And it shall be lawful for the justices acting in and for such county or place assembled at such meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, and not as hereinafter disqualified from acting, to grant licences for the purposes aforesaid to such persons as they the said justices shall, in the execution of the powers herein contained, and in the exercise of their discretion, deem fit and proper." The licence does not include wine, and is based upon the sale of beer, cider, or perry, to be drank upon the premises. The words are, "And be it further enacted, that no licence for the sale of any spirits or foreign wine, or sweets or made wines, or

Retail spirit licence not granted without beer licence.

mead or metheglin, by retail, to be drank or consumed in or upon the house or premises where sold, shall be granted to any person or persons who shall not have, and produce a licence 'for the sale of beer,' cider, or perry by retail, to be drank or consumed in or upon such house or premises in that behalf granted as herein by this Act before mentioned; and if any licence for the sale of any spirits or foreign wines, or sweets or made wines, or mead or metheglin by retail, to be drank or consumed in or upon the house or premises where sold, shall be granted to any person or persons other than as aforesaid, such licence shall be and is hereby declared to be absolutely null and void to all intents and purposes; and all and every such person or persons as aforesaid shall be subject and liable to all and every penalty and penalties imposed upon persons selling spirits or foreign wines, or sweets or made wines, or mead or metheglin, by retail without licence" (6th of Geo. 4, c. 81, s. 14).

Beerhouse-keepers' licence granted by the Excise.

The beerhouse-keepers' licence is obtained from the Commissioners or collectors of Excise, who are compelled to grant the licence where the applicant has complied with the conditions imposed by the Act of Parliament, in the production of a certificate as to the rating of the house, signed by the overseer (3 & 4 Vict. c. 61, s. 1), and a certificate of character, where the licence is to drink on the premises, signed by six resident ratepayers occupying houses not rated to the poor at less than 6 *l.* a year, and who shall not be maltsters, brewers, sellers of spirituous or malt liquors, nor proprietors of houses licensed for the sale of such liquors (4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 85). Where the licence was originally granted prior to the 3d & 4th Vict., c. 61, s. 1, no certificate of the rating is required;

required ; and in cities, corporate towns, and towns returning Members to Parliament, where the population is above 5,000, no certificate of character.

Certificates of character and rating.

The rating qualification established by the above Act is, for the cities of London and Westminster, or any place within the bills of mortality, or any place within one mile of any polling-place used at the last election, or any place having a population exceeding 10,000, 15 *l.*; for places similarly circumstanced, the population of which exceeds 2,500, 11 *l.*; and for all other places, 8 *l.* The uniform duty for the licence to have drinking on the premises is three guineas; and not to have drinking on the premises, one guinea.

A quart may be sold without licence.

The sale of beer at three-halfpence a quart, without licence, seems to have been first granted by 12th Charles 2, c. 24, s. 39, and to have formed the subject of exceptional clauses in the Beer Acts; but so confused had the law as to the sale of beer and spirits become, especially after 1 Will. 4, c. 64, as to create a doubt whether the original clause, or any other, providing the like exception, were any longer in existence; the difficulty was overcome by the following Treasury Order, bearing date 9th November 1830, and general order thereon of Board of Inland Revenue, bearing date 16th November 1830, giving the seller the benefit of the doubt, and confirming the privilege.

Treasury Minute sanctioning such sale without licence.

TREASURY AUTHORITY allowing Table Beer at 1 ½ *d.* to be Retailed without Excise Licence, and General Order issued thereon.

Gentlemen, Treasury Chambers, 9 November 1830.

THE Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have had under their consideration your Report of the 30th ultimo, on the Memorials of the Birmingham Brewery Company, M. Brown and H. N. Byles, praying to be informed whether, under the regulations of the Act 1 Will. 4, c. 64, persons are allowed to sell table-beer by retail, as heretofore, without taking out an Excise licence; and I am directed by their Lordships to authorise you, under all the circumstances stated in your Report, to allow the retailers of table-beer, as heretofore, to sell their beer without taking out an Excise licence, provided such beer is in no case more than 1 ½ *d.* per quart.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Geo. R. Dawson.*

GENERAL ORDER.

Excise Order thereon.

Excise Office, London, 16 November 1830.

IN pursuance of directions from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, signified by letter from one of their Lordships' Secretaries, dated the 9th instant, Ordered, that no objection be made by the officers of this Revenue to the sale of table-beer only, by retail, by persons not licensed, in the same manner as before the passing of the Act 1 Will. 4, c. 64, provided such beer be not sold at a higher price than 1 ½ *d.* per quart.

By the Board,

Cha^s Browne.

Cider and Perry licences are on the same footing with beer licences, and pay the same amount (11 Geo. 4, and 1 Will. 4, c. 64, s. 30).

Free vintners sell wine without licence.

Persons free of the Vintners' Company claim, as by right, to sell wine without an Excise licence, and to send out spirits in sealed bottles (1566) to be consumed on or off the premises. Sir Richard Mayne states that the right has been disputed, but always without effect (179).

Theatres sell without licence.

In theatres the sale without licence arises from the contradictory provisions. Of the 5th & 6th of Will. 4, c. 39, authorising the proprietor to have a licence without the magistrate's certificate, and under which the Excise would grant it; and a Treasury Order, bearing date 11th September 1835, prohibiting the Excise from issuing the licence (523).

Home-made wines Excise licence.

The licence to sell sweet made wines, mead or metheglin, may be obtained by any person, under the Excise Licensing Act, 6 Geo. 4, c. 81. The duty on the licence is one guinea, and it restricts the holder to sell by the bottle or gallon.

The distinctions as to licences lead to evasion of the law.

Your Committee have had evidence in proof that these distinctions in the trade are the occasion of constant evasions and infringements of the law. It is admitted by the wholesale dealers themselves, that they do not observe the restriction to sell spirits in not less quantity than two imperial gallons, or twelve reputed quarts. A dealer having establishments both in London and Brighton, gives the names of several houses of the highest standing at the west end of London, who have been fined for selling less than the legal quantities (1563). The risk is taken daily. Mr. Webb, Brighton, states that "the law is

Wholesale dealers sell by retail.

evaded every day by every respectable wine merchant in the place; almost every house in Brighton has been informed against" (1587–1588); and another witness also from Brighton, and in the same trade, states "that for 20 years he broke the law by sending two bottles of brandy at a time to a late Chairman of the Board of Excise" (1628).

Three-halfpenny beersellers sell ale.

Colonel Hogg, chief constable of Wolverhampton, states that "there are a great many places where beer is sold without a licence, supposed to be worth 1½ *d.* a quart; but where ale as good as can be had at any other place, may be had after all the other houses are closed" (6837–6832). Similar places are spoken of by several witnesses as existing in greater or less numbers at Manchester, Bolton, Preston, Oldham, throughout Hampshire, and in other places; and there is no room to doubt that wherever opportunity offers, three halfpenny beer is made use of as a cover for the unlicensed sale of other drinks.

Beershops licensed for off, have drinking on, premises.

Captain Harris, chief constable of the county of Hants, states, that "he has frequently convicted parties, licensed only to sell for consumption off the premises, of selling for consumption on the premises" (7114–15.) The Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue refers to "the very great temptation to parties having a beer licence to sell spirits, and the great opportunity afforded to those having a beer and spirit licence to sell wine without a licence (389), and states, that great difficulty is at present felt, both by the Excise and the police, from the fact that the house having a licence to sell beer, and a number of persons resorting to it, there is an opportunity, and great temptation, to evade the law by supplying people with spirits (393); and further, that the more frequent cases of offence are of sales of wine at places licensed to sell beer and spirits, but not to sell wine (381); and they have also cases of spirits being sold in houses licensed only for the sale of beer" (349).

Free vintners sell other drinks as wine.

Mr. George Ridley, of Crutched Friars, himself for many years connected with the wine and spirit trade, states, that "vintners' licences are frequently borrowed. If he wanted a vintner's licence, he might find one named Smith, and put his name over the door, and thus obtain the privilege of selling wine" (4864); and Sir Richard Mayne states, that "under the vintners' privilege, though they have authority to sell wine only, he believes they sell other things. It is very difficult to say what is wine in glass or in bottles, and it is difficult to make out in evidence whether wine or other drink is sold" (185).

The restrictions as to wholesale dealers inconvenient.

It is stated that the public are inconvenienced (and would be so to a much greater extent, if the law were not broken,) by the restriction upon wholesale dealers. Persons are unwilling to send their servants to a public-house, and have no other place open to them where any moderate quantity of brandy, or other spirits, may be procured. It is not easy to find any good grounds for the distinction that wine may be sold by the single bottle, and spirits in no less a quantity than 24 reputed quarts; nor is it reasonable to suppose that the majority of dealers will prefer the chance of losing their custom for wine to the risk of being informed against for selling a less quantity of spirits than is allowed by law. The inconvenience is so universally admitted that it has frequently engaged the attention of Parliament, and successive Governments have proposed to amend the law, but hitherto with no further result than the 11 & 12 Vict., c. 121, s. 9, commonly

The Maraschino Act.

known as the "Maraschino Act," and by which wholesale dealers, provided, in addition to their licence to sell in quantity, they take out a retail licence, may sell a single bottle of any foreign liqueur.

Hardship of the restrictions admitted by magistrates and Excise.

The admitted hardship of the restriction is further evidenced by the magistrates, in every instance, mitigating the penalty from 50 *l.* to 12 *l.* 10 *s.*, the minimum allowed them by law, and the further reduction in several recent cases by the Board of Inland Revenue to the nominal amount of 10 or 20 shillings.

There

There is no other ground put forward for the continuance of the existing restriction upon wholesale wine and spirits dealers than that their extinction would enable wholesale dealers to sell in quantities which can now be had only of hotel keepers and licensed victuallers.

Licences not concerned with trade distinctions.

The only result to licensed victuallers of preventing persons with a wholesale spirit licence from selling less than 24 reputed quarts, is to give rise to a general belief amongst the public that brandy and other foreign spirits are to be had, of the best quality, from the wholesale dealers only; and there can be no doubt that the belief will continue until the single bottle can be had alike from the merchant and the retailer. The publicans are themselves, therefore, interested in the abolition of the restriction. Meanwhile it is a manifest injustice that, whilst the wholesale dealer cannot, without a magistrate's licence—which would involve him in consequences inconsistent with his business—sell in any less quantity than two gallons, the retailer, being in possession of a magistrate's licence, can obtain a wholesale dealer's licence as a matter of course, and then enter from below upon the competition from which he would exclude those above.

The restriction on wholesale dealers is injurious to retailers.

Your Committee do not find that a majority of the wholesale dealers are desirous of selling for consumption on the premises; on the contrary, Mr. Butler, who spoke as to the opinions of a considerable number in the trade, states, that they wish only to sell in sealed bottles (1572), but to be permitted to sell a single bottle (1575); that they would not object to pay an increased sum for the licence to do so, so that they could conduct their business fairly and honourably (1568).

Your Committee desire very strongly to express their conviction of the impolicy of permitting the continuance of a law which, whilst it interferes with legitimate trade, and subjects the public to inconvenience, affords constant opportunity for vexatious proceedings by common informers, and is condemned alike by the magistracy and the Board of Inland Revenue.

The distinction between beershops and public-houses appears also to Your Committee to have been productive of considerable evil.

Evils of distinction between beershops and public-houses.

The natural tendency of the distinction between the two classes of houses is to give rise to an unhealthy competition, under which both parties are drawn to extreme expedients for the attraction of custom. Mr. Stinton says, "There is a great deal of gambling carried on in Birmingham, although the police do all they can to put it down; when the policeman is about the cards are hid, and that has been brought on entirely owing to the beer trade; because if the licensed victuallers did not allow it, the parties would go to a beerhouse. I recollect a case myself in which I said, 'I will not allow cards in my tap-room,' and the consequence was, that the men said, 'Well, there is a beerhouse, and if you do not allow it, we will go to that house.' Bad language was being used, and my house was cleared; I lost all my custom for a time, and I was obliged to allow it, in spite of the law."

Forced competition gives rise to expedients to attract custom.

It becomes difficult for publican or beershop to prevent card-playing and gambling.

The two classes of houses are not upon an equal footing in trade; the beershop-keeper must make his profit upon beer only, and has to compete in its sale with the licensed victualler, who has the advantage of selling spirits as well as beer. The publican may sell beer at little or no profit, he can make up for the loss upon that branch of his trade by the profit upon spirits, he can therefore afford to attract custom by a price at which, unless at a loss, it is not possible for the beershop-keeper to sell; the latter is thus in many cases driven to seek a profit by deteriorating the quality of his beer, but even then, he is met by the publican, who has the advantage, that he can not only compete in reducing the beer, but can still undersell his competitor, and compensate himself for the loss by lowering the quality of the spirits in which he also deals.

The two classes of houses have not the same opportunity of success.

The necessity of making a profit on beer only gives rise to adulteration.

Your Committee have had some important evidence of the extent to which this evil has been carried. A late partner in one of the metropolitan breweries says, "it is quite notorious if you drink beer at the brewery, and at a public-house a little way off, you find it a very different commodity" (4538). Another witness, himself a London publican, states that most publicans have a system of doing something to their beer (1742). It is not possible to make a living by selling beer at 3*d.* a pot, for which the brewer gets 1*s.* a gallon; but if a pail

Beer is seldom as good at the public-house or beershop as at the brewery.

of liquor be put into it there is that amount of profit (1738). The beer is dashed; there is what he calls five per cent. of water put in the beer. As to spirits, the same witness states that paying 12*s.* a gallon for gin he is obliged to mix water with it to sell it at 4*d.* a quartern, which is but 10*s.* 8*d.* a gallon; and that there is added, besides the water, sugar to sweeten it. Mr. Ridley, who has been long connected with the wine and spirit trade, and who has under his management certain offices for the analysation of alcoholic liquors, states that the standard price of all the large porter brewers—and as to which there are agreements amongst them—is 33*s.* a barrel, with five per cent. off, that is 31*s.* 6*d.* net; the barrel is 36 gallons; it is increased to 48 gallons by the addition of water and sugar, and then sold at 3*d.* per pot, which yields a profit of 15*s.* a barrel (4706. 4730), whilst in the genuine state the profit would be about 4*s.* (4746). The Witness had sampled the beer of a house on the Surrey side of the water where they sell at 3*d.* a pot, and draw 48 butts a month, and found that from their fraudulent process of reducing, they had a profit of 45 per cent. (4733, 4734).

How adulterated.

The Witness further states that there are several recipes for the adulteration, such as, "to a barrel of porter 12 gallons of liquor, four pounds of foots, one pound of salt; and then there is sometimes, to bring a head up, a little vitriol, cocculus indicus, also a variety of things so very minute, that unless they are admitted by recipes in their hands, we cannot easily detect the small proportions" (4700).

Chemical analysis.

Dr. Hassall, a London physician, who for several years has devoted his attention to the adulteration of liquors and articles of food, states that a "solution of cayenne pepper is commonly used to increase the pungency of gin; it is used in the shape of a tincture, so that it mixes readily with the spirits; but the addition of water to any strong spirituous liquid has the effect of making the mixture turbid and milky, and this necessitates a subsequent process of fining. To fine this

Adulteration of spirit.

mixture of water and ordinary spirits, carbonate of potash (commonly called salt of tartar) and alum are employed; those subside to the bottom, and carry with them the essential oil upon which turbidity depends, leaving the spirits clear and bright. The use of potash and alum is very frequent indeed in gin" (4350). The same Witness gives as the result of the analyses of nearly 50 samples of beer, ale, porter, and stout, that they are weakened by the addition of water, which is as essentially an adulteration as any other mixture (4318. 4309).

Adulteration of beer.

Mr. John William M'Culloch, an analytical chemist, for 10 years in the employment of the Board of Inland Revenue, states that he has analysed many hundred samples of beer, both for the Excise and since he has left their employment; that since Christmas 1853, he has analysed 480 samples. In 40 samples of brewers'

Result of comparative strength of samples at the Breweries and Public-houses.

beer, he found the strength invariably 10½ gallons proof spirit to every 100 gallons of beer; but at several of the licensed victuallers' supplied by those brewers, it did not exceed 6 gallons and 8–10ths; and of 150 samples from licensed victuallers dealing at these breweries, there was not one of them within 20 per cent. of the brewery standard. In the instance of a publican at the St. Katherine's Docks, who sends out an immense quantity of beer, it was reduced to 6 gallons proof spirit in the 100; so that by the addition of water he had increased his 100 gallons of beer to 170 (4388 to 4394). His beer is sold at 3*d.* a pot, and the profit made on the 100 gallons, by the addition of the

Largeness of profit on adulteration.

water, would therefore be 3*l.* 15*s.* (4450.) The same witness states that a sample of gin recently analysed, contained 75 lbs. of sugar to every 100 gallons (4456).

Insufficiency of existing law to prevent adulteration.

For this almost universal practice of imposition upon the public, wrong to the honest trader, and fraud upon the revenue, the extent of which, by the substitution of water for beer, Mr. M'Culloch estimates at one-fourth of the malt tax, the law appears to afford no sufficient remedy. The parties

Proof of difficulty, from being no fixed standard of strength.

are liable to heavy penalties for adulteration, to forfeiture of the licence, and disability to hold any future licence, but there is difficulty in convicting for adulteration, because there is no fixed standard of strength. The brewer may manufacture any strength, and the publican or beershop-keeper have any strength for sale. Where there are considerable profits upon fraud, pecuniary penalties

The profit covers the penalties on the few cases of conviction.

are readily paid, and neither in the instance of the sale of articles not included in the licence, nor of adulteration, does the ultimate penalty of the withdrawal of the licence seem to be enforced. A witness, who has long been connected

nected with trade, states, that "The magistrates do not take pains to investigate how these houses are conducted, and instead of putting in force the power they have to deprive them of their licence for adulterating their liquors, they take no notice whatever" (4685). The power to forfeit the licence in the case of beershops, rests not with the Excise, but with the magistrate; the Excise grant, but they cannot withdraw the licence. The Commissioner or collectors of Excise can act only on written notice of the adjudication of the magistrates. Mr. John Wood says, "The justice may fine the party, and he may in addition to the pecuniary penalty adjudge that he should forfeit his licence, but if he does not so adjudge, and if he does not give notice of such adjudication, either to the Commissioners of Excise or to the collector of Excise, as the case may be, then we, having no notice of such adjudication, have no right whatever to interfere; and in practice we never have such notice. I believe we have not one single instance in which such an adjudication has been forwarded to us. The magistrates, as it appears to me, generally decline that part of their duty; having the option, they do not so adjudicate; it appears to me that they generally consider it sufficient to convict the party in a pecuniary penalty, and they do not communicate to us, as the Act of Parliament prescribes to them, the fact that there has been a conviction; that is, they consider the conviction in the penalty sufficient, and they do not wish it to be followed by the consequences which the Act of Parliament prescribes."

Publicans' licence not withdrawn by magistrates.

Excise have no power over Beershop licence but on notice of conviction by magistrates.

Magistrates do not convict.

Your Committee have not sufficient evidence to enable them to judge of the extent to which the adulteration and dilution of beer and spirits prevails, that it is very general there is reason to believe; it is the almost natural fruit of the unequal and unjust competition established by the distinction between the publicans and beershop-keepers; still Your Committee, are satisfied that there are many, both publicans and beershop-keepers, who do not engage in these discreditable practices, and whose business is fairly and honourably conducted.

It has been suggested that it would afford an easy remedy against adulteration, if a standard were fixed below which the retailer must not have any beer upon his premises. The establishment of such a restriction must, however, be undertaken with the utmost caution, lest, in the effort to prevent the adulteration of beer of the strength ordinarily manufactured, the legitimate manufacture and sale of beer of inferior strength should be prevented. In the case of spirits, there does not seem to be any difficulty; the rectifier cannot send it out beyond 17 to 20 under proof, and it is only necessary that the publican shall be prohibited from having it on his premises below that standard.

Suggestion to prevent adulteration by fixing standard below which beer and spirits not to be on premises.

The matter of adulteration and dilution is, however, sufficiently important to form the subject of a distinct inquiry; and Your Committee are of opinion, that as early as may be convenient, an inquiry should take place into the whole question of the adulteration of food, drink, and medicines. The suppression of adulteration is of the utmost importance, not to the consumers only, but in checking the dishonest competition, so recklessly carried on to the ruin of fair trade.

Important to have further inquiry into adulteration of food, medicines, &c.

The beershop system has proved a failure. It was established under the belief that it would give the public their beer cheap and pure, would dissociate beer-drinking from drunkenness, and lead to the establishment throughout the country of a class of houses of refreshment, altogether free from the disorders supposed to attend exclusively on the sale of spirits. The Committee of the Lords which sat in 1849–50, however, report that of the beer-houses, "a very large proportion are, as in the case of public-houses, the actual property of brewers, or tied by advances to them; that they are notorious for the sale of an inferior article; that the consumption of ardent spirits has, from whatever cause, far from diminished; and that the comforts and morals of the poor have been seriously impaired." Much of the evidence before Your Committee is to the same effect.

Original grounds for establishment of Beershops.

Opinion of Lords that the Beershop system has failed.

Your Committee have already adverted to the connexion of beerhouses with crime. In the Report on the Sale of Beer Act, brought from the Lords, 30 May 1850, their Lordships state that—

"It was already sufficiently notorious, that drunkenness is the main cause of crime, disorder, and distress in England; and it appears that the multiplication of houses for the consumption of intoxicating liquors, which, under the Beer

Report of Lords, 1850, on Beer Act.

Act, has risen from 88,930 to 123,396, has been thus in itself an evil of the first magnitude, not only by increasing the temptations to excess, which are thus presented at every step, but by driving houses, even those under the direct control of the magistrates, as well as others originally respectable, to practices, for the purpose of attracting custom, which are degrading to their own character, and most injurious to morality and order.

Driven to attract custom by practices injurious to morality.

Your Committee fully concur in the further statement of their Lordships, that notwithstanding the general concurrence of testimony against beershops, "there are highly rated houses under the beershop licence, in London and other places, kept by parties of respectable character, conducted with propriety, and even advantage to the neighbourhood, and which furnish a valuable accommodation to the middle and working classes." This is confirmed by the Superintendent of the Southwark Division of Metropolitan Police, who says :—"As far as my experience goes, I think the beerhouses, taking into consideration that they are subject to more stringent rules with respect to closing, are equally as well conducted as public-houses, that is, so far as my own immediate district goes. It should be borne in mind that beerhouses are necessarily resorted to by a lower class of persons than the generality of public-houses" (5092).

There are numerous beerhouses well conducted.

Licences in hands of brewers.

Liverpool.

Brighton.

Norwich.

Yarmouth.

Lyme Regis.

Ipswich.

On the matter of advances by brewers, Mr. Robertson Gladstone, one of the Liverpool borough magistrates, states, that the brewers of Liverpool have become possessed of a vast number of licences in their own hands (983). Mr. Partridge, of Brighton, holding the commission of the peace for Sussex, Herefordshire, and Monmouthshire, states, that the great evil of the present system is, that the publicans are completely under the thumb of the brewers; the houses belong to the brewers, who put people in to hold them (5742, 5743). Mr. Palmer, recorder of Norwich, gives the number of houses in Norwich, bound to each brewer, showing that, of 566 licences, but 18 are free to deal with whom they please (1845); and at Yarmouth, of 182 houses, 105 are bound to brewers (1845); at Lyme Regis, of 124 who sell beer, wine, and spirits, 100 are tied to particular brewers (1867); at Ipswich, where there are 125 licensed houses, 102 belong to brewers (1876).

Shields.

Mr. James Mather, himself a wine and spirit merchant at South Shields, states that there are 191 licensed houses in South Shields, of which 123 are tied to take their supplies from brewers and spirit-merchants, and there are 48 beerhouses, nearly all so tied (9510).

London.

As to London, the fact of the great brewers, either owning the public-houses or having mortgages upon, or holding the leases as security for loans, is sufficiently notorious to need no confirmation. It would seem that money is not even always really advanced. Mr. M'Culloch states that "a man who occupies a house called the York Hotel, in Gordon-street, Islington, for four years had been applying for a licence for that house, and had been refused until an appeal this year. There has not been a single house built in the neighbourhood since he first applied for a licence; the inhabitants are less numerous than they were before. On the appeal this year, he got his licence. He went into that house (it is a well fitted-up house) as a beerseller, with the understanding with the brewer that he should pay 100 *l.* a year rent, and in the event of procuring a licence he should pay 20 *l.* a year more; that makes 120 *l.* rent; and he should also pay down to the brewer 3,000 *l.*, or become liable for the amount, and pay five per cent. upon it (4490). His rent was increased 20 *l.* a year, and he became indebted to the brewer for the sum of 3,000 *l.*; not one fraction of that money had ever passed between them (4411). The brewer holds his lease as security (4412).

Report of Committee of 1817 on subject of brewers and licences.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the police of the metropolis, and the execution of the laws relating to licensed victuallers, went very fully into evidence upon this subject, and in their reports dated May 2d, 1817, observe upon it, "that a practice seems to have gradually grown up, and to have increased to a great extent, within these few years, for brewers to become the owners, purchasers, or equitable mortgagees of leases of public-houses; nearly one-half of the victualling-houses in the metropolis are held in this manner; and Your Committee think, that under the confined and restricted power, which the public at large possess, of employing their capital in the trade of victualling-houses, this system is very prejudicial to the interest of the community at large." The community would not, however, suffer if there were no such restriction, and only

by

241

by abolishing it is it possible to reach the evil. Brewers and publicans must of course be left at perfect liberty to make advances, and receive them as they may find profitable.

The hope of obtaining a licence increases number of beershops.

Beerhouse-keeping requires but little capital; many are attracted to it, and overstock the trade, by the hope that it will lead to a licence, and, though disappointed and unsuccessful, continue in the business. The trade of a publican is looked upon as a peculiar privilege (2923); but in proportion as the magistrates endeavour to keep down the number of public-houses, does the number of beerhouses increase.

The fewer victuallers the more beershops.

In Liverpool, where the magistrates have readily granted licences, there are 1,450 public-houses and 1,000 beershops; and in Manchester, where the magistrates have so rigidly restrained the increase of public-houses, that they were actually reduced from 490 in 1844 to 481 in 1852, the beershops have risen from 850 in 1844 to 1,460 in 1852. But the beershop is not only the first attraction from its cheapness, and the hope of a licence to numbers to enter upon the trade in intoxicating drinks, who, were the whole upon the same footing, would for want of capital never attempt it, but it forms a mischievous refuge for those who have failed discreditably, or been deprived for offences more or less serious of their licences as publicans. Mr. Stinton says, "I recollect a case in which the magistrates of Birmingham stopped a licensed victualler's house; they gave him special notice that he had bad company in his house, and at last they stopped the licence. What did he do? He went to the Excise Office and took out his licence, and snapped his fingers at the magistrates, and carried on ten times worse" (3813). And another witness states, that "beerhouses are often kept by persons who have lost their licences as publicans; sometimes they are kept by discharged convicts" (4040).

Publicans who have forfeited their licence open beershops.

Committee recommend the distinction between beershop and public-house licences to be discontinued.

In view of these facts, Your Committee feel justified in recommending that the distinction between beershops and public-houses, both as to the extent of the licence and the manner in which it is granted, shall be discontinued; and they are fortified in the recommendation by the opinions of persons of considerable experience in the working of the existing system. Mr. John Wood states, "that he does not see any reason whatever for the distinction between public-houses and beer-houses (515), and that with regard to licensed victuallers, there should be one general licence allowing them to sell beer, spirits, and wine," (389). Mr. Daniel Whittle Harvey: "Except as to reference to character, and other circumstances, which the magistrates or the law might prescribe as the best mode of preserving public order and social regulations, would allow any man to sell malt liquor or spirits" (9340–1). Mr. Nathaniel Palmer, recorder of Norwich, is of opinion "that every man who wants it should have a licence," (1826). Mr. William Partridge "thinks that every respectable rated inhabitant should be entitled to a licence to carry on the trade of a licensed victualler" (5760). Mr. Robertson Gladstone "is of opinion that the trade would better regulate itself if it were thrown open to any man who had not been convicted of an offence, on giving proper security to the public for his good conduct" (1015).

Opinions in favour of the clause.

At a meeting of the Liverpool Bench of Magistrates, held 24th January 1853, it was resolved, "That all houses for the sale of ale, beer, spirits and wine, should be exposed to free competition in trade, imposing only those restrictions which may be deemed expedient for the purpose of police regulation." (*See* Appendix.

The Honourable Frederick Byng states, that "his idea of licensing is, that any man should have a licence on sufficient evidence and good security for his good conduct, under certain regulations" (9207.)

Objections to abolition of distinction. Alderman Wire.

It is objected that this freedom of obtaining licences would entail serious losses upon existing publicans. Mr. Alderman Wire, solicitor to the Licensed Victuallers' Association, says, "I should say, that the licensed victuallers, as a body, throughout the country, and my impression is that the public concur in that opinion, for reasons that the licensed victuallers do not concur in, are opposed to any change whatever. They think that the present laws, which were exceedingly well considered in the year in which Mr. Estcourt brought in his Act, have worked beneficially for the public, where the attention of the magistrates has

been particularly directed to their administration; that they have preserved temperance; that they have protected the revenue; and that they have afforded great accommodation to the public. Now, if I might be permitted to say one word as to the largeness of the interest affected by these laws. We say there are 6,000 licensed victuallers in the metropolitan district, and it is impossible to put those houses down at less than 1,000 *l.* each in value. Then, if you see the number which would be thus affected, you see the largeness of the interest you are about to deal with and destroy by any alteration of the law. That interest in the metropolitan district alone would represent 6,000,000*l.* of property. Yes; I use the word "destroy" advisedly, because any alteration of the law, by throwing the trade open, would destroy the interest; and would, therefore, so far infringe on the capital and industry of 6,000 people, who have depended on the law as it is now in existence" (10065–6).

The apprehensions groundless.

Your Committee do not see reason to entertain these apprehensions. The same fears that are now expressed as to opening the trade of public-house-keeping were as eagerly urged at the time against the establishment of beershops. Several of the leading brewers deprecated the mischief that would be brought upon publicans in common with themselves, and entered into calculations to show that general ruin was inevitable. Your Committee, however, find that higher sums were not at any time paid than now for the goodwill of public-houses. The facts stated by Mr. Alderman Wire, that "the public-house interest in the metropolitan district alone represents 6,000,000*l.* of property, and that there are 6,000 licensed victuallers in the district" (10065–6), are in themselves sufficient evidence that the interest has not suffered to any ruinous extent from the establishment of beerhouses, and this would seem to be confirmed by the fact that, although there are 41,547 houses licensed under the Beer Acts, there are 59,963 licensed victuallers, with the advantage, as against any new competitors, that they are established in the best situations, and have capital and connexions in their trade.

Publicans will not suffer.

Existing licences not to be interfered with.

Your Committee, however, do not propose to place those who may hereafter become publicans upon the same footing with those already holding licences. It seems desirable that in future a higher rate of duty shall be paid for a licence, and more stringent regulations enforced as to character and sureties. It is intended that existing beershops shall be suffered, as they now are, to take out separate licences for drinking on and off the premises. It will not be possible for any new beershop to obtain a licence without payment of a much more considerable sum than existing beershops will have to pay; it will therefore be only the better class of them that will become spirit sellers; whilst the more stringent supervision of all places of public refreshment, in common with places for the sale of intoxicating drinks, which Your Committee consider it essential to have established as a part of the new system, will tend to prevent the unlicensed sale of intoxicating drinks, and to suppress those discreditable practices which, in many localities, give an advantage to dishonest traders.

Sale of drinks without licence will be checked.

Population, not rating, to regulate payment for licence.

It seems to Your Committee advisable that, under the new system of licensing, the sum to be paid for a licence shall not be varied by the amount at which the premises are rated, but shall depend solely upon population, that being the more simple, certain, and equitable test.

Sureties to give bond, and penalties to be stringently enforced against them.

Your Committee also consider it esssential to the effective working of the system that penalties against the sureties shall be strictly enforced, and that before granting the licence the position and character of the sureties as well as the applicant, shall be fully inquired into. On this subject, Mr. D. W. Harvey says, "I consider the bond to be no slight test of character; if a man who proposes to have a house licensed can find two persons who will be his sureties, which, in fact, means that he will conduct himself according to law, it is no slight testimony to the character of the man; but, of course, the law will provide against a series of penalties. After a man shall have incurred two or three penalties, there ought to be a very summary mode by which he can be divested of the licence" (9863). Fines are so frequently paid for the parties, and are so usually inflicted at the lowest amount provided by the law, that Your Committee would suggest that the penalty for certain offences against the law, or tenor of the licence, shall be, instead of a fine, the closing of the house for any period from one day to a month; such a mode of punishment would

Instead of fine, licence in certain cases to be suspended.

243

would have the advantage over fines, that it would be publicly known, and would give the brewers, and others serving the house, a direct interest in the character of the proprietor.

Advantage of suspension over fine as a punishment.

Your Committee forbear to enter at length upon the Evidence condemnatory of the exercise of the magisterial power in granting licences. The existence of a suspicion that licences are withheld and granted capriciously, and that the influence of builders and brewers is more potent than either the character of the applicant, or the requirements of the public, in procuring a licence, whether well founded or not, might afford sufficient ground for relieving the magistracy from duties, which, however great their desire to do so, it has been impossible for them satisfactorily to discharge. But when the sole duty to be performed is to investigate the character of the applicant, and the validity of his sureties, the magistracy seem the most fitting authority to be entrusted with the duty; and there is the advantage in their being so entrusted, that they will also be the tribunal for the enforcement of the law and conditions of the licence.

Magistrates to license.

Inquiry to be limited to character of applicant and validity of sureties.

Your Committee in considering the question of the existing state of the law in its bearing upon public morals, have to observe, that there are no sufficient statistics to enable the average amount of drunkenness in the United Kingdom to be stated with any approach to accuracy.

Bearing upon public morals of regulation of sale of intoxicating drinks.

In the majority of provincial towns the number of the police force is so small that it is impossible they should take cognizance of any cases of drunkenness not connected with riot or disorder; whilst amongst the beer-shops in rural districts every house may have its cluster of drunkards who, for drunkenness, at least, are never included in any return.

Statistics of intemperance defective.

The Parliamentary Paper, No. 541, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 27th May 1853, furnishes a proof that police reports cannot be depended upon as evidence of the amounts of drunkenness. The population of Liverpool is 376,065, that of Manchester, 316,213; the cases of drunkenness brought under the notice of the police in Liverpool are stated at 18,522, or one to every 20 of the population; whilst in Manchester the cases for the same period are returned at but 787, or one in 104. Your Committee do not undertake to say whether the amount of drunkenness in Manchester bears as high a ratio to the population as in Liverpool, but the smallness of the numbers upon the police return is at once accounted for by the fact, that if a drunken person be not positively disorderly, it is the duty of the Manchester police to pass them from one to the other until they are seen home. However drunk and incapable they may have been, they do not appear upon the return, and the police have further the strong inducement, even in disorderly cases, not to lock up drunken persons, that they have to appear against them during their leisure time, and "if every disorderly person found at night were brought before the magistrate next morning the police would have very little rest" (1864–6).

The evidence before the Committee is sufficient to show that the amount of drunkenness is very much greater than appears upon the face of any official returns.

There are in England and Wales 89,866 public-houses, and 41,547 houses licensed under the Beer Acts. There are, besides, many places where beer is sold without a licence. "Some of them, under cover of the law permitting beer at 1½*d.* a quart to be sold without licence, sell also porter and ale" (6882). "At the single town of Fazeley, in South Staffordshire, there are about 30 houses that sell porter, ale, and beer indiscriminately; they are private houses, known as Bush Houses, from their having a bush over the door as a sign to their frequenters" (4838. 6840). At Oldham, in Lancashire, "there are from 400 to 500 such places, known there as Hush Shops, where they brew their own beer and have each their own known customers;" at Bolton, Preston, in Hampshire, and in London similar practices are more or less prevalent (3664 to 3679). To what extent others may be spread over the country Your Committee have not evidence; there is, however, sufficient to render it probable that the total number of houses throughout the kingdom engaged in the unlicensed sale of beer and other intoxicating liquors is very considerable.

Sale of drinks without licences.

Drunkenness in London.

There are no doubt many publicans and beershop-keepers who exercise the utmost vigilance to prevent drunkenness on their premises, and to keep bad characters out of their houses, and who spare no pains to conduct their business with respectability; but the temptation is strong to encourage intemperance, and a vast number of the houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks live upon drunkards and the sure progress of multitudes to drunkenness, whilst numbers of them are the habitual haunts of the idle and abandoned, of thieves, prostitutes, and the adepts and learners of crime. A witness who for three or four years acted as a temperance missionary in St. Giles's, states that in that district "he has seen respectable persons taken into public-houses in a partial state of inebriation by men whom he knew, and the police knew, to be common thieves; he never knew the publicans to remove those people." He has known women to go in with young children, and get drunk at the bar, so that on coming out they have fallen down with the children in their arms; the police dare not interfere; it was not the duty of any one to remove them from the public-house as long as they had money to spend" (1203. 1208). The same witness states, that "he lately visited in the evening the whole of the public-houses in the New Cut, from Blackfriars-road, numbering about 16. They were all full of people drinking; in one house he counted 50 persons drinking; they were serving as fast as they could. Amongst the number were women with children in their arms; upon one butt there was an infant fast asleep, and the father and mother were drunk by the side; against the counter was a little child, about four years old, fast asleep. At one house the police were obliged to stand with their staves to prevent the people from pushing the doors in, as the publican inside and his servants drove them out to prevent their getting more drink, and to enable the public-house to be closed at the time prescribed by the Act of Parliament" (4737 to 4739).

Neither the publicans nor police prevent it.

Extent of drinking in Manchester.

Another witness states "that in a single street in Manchester (Deansgate) there are, besides beershops and public-houses, 28 spirit vaults; and that every Saturday there are to be found at any hour throughout the day an average of 550 persons drinking in those houses at the same time; one house alone averages 1,500 visitors in the day" (3702). Another witness gives as the result of an inquiry extending over 1,456 spirit vaults, beerhouses, and public-houses in the same city, "that they had on a single Sunday 212,243 visits; and that 22,232 of the calls were by children, some of whom went to drink on their own account, some to fetch drink, and some were bad characters." In evidence of the neglect of children, as the result of the drinking habits of their parents, a London operative states that "some of his fellow-workmen, and who are in the receipt of moderately good wages (1048), are to be found in the public-houses on Saturday and Sunday nights, whilst their children are inmates of a ragged school, and some of them abandoned thieves" (1036).

Connexion of intemperance with crime.

Mr. Thomas Wright of Manchester, who for 16 years has devoted himself to visiting gaols, and endeavouring to reform criminals and find them the means of living on their discharge from prison, speaks strongly of the intimate connexion between intoxicating drinks and crime. "He has found that the majority are criminals from their youth (2126); that there is a large class who give themselves wholly to drinking who send their children out begging, and from begging to pilfering for them. All the children in gaols speak of the neglect of their parents (2132); he has never found any cause for that neglect but drunkenness (2141); 18 out of 20 of our criminals are from that class" (2124). "Amongst the convicts at Portland he could not find two out of 20 who could say they had had a good mother; the mother was generally a woman who had neglected them in childhood and youth from drunkenness."

Statements of criminals.

"Of 27 men convicted of murder with whom he had conversed there was but one who said that his mother was a good woman (2127, 2128). There is a race of women in the world who do not care where the money comes from so they can get it for drink (2142). Some of them encourage their children to be prostitutes; he has seen them in the gaols as early as 10 years of age, and conversed with them (2146-7); they all tell of the drunkenness of their parents, especially their mothers" (2151). "One lad spoke of his mother sending him out begging, and from begging to pilfering; she did not care where she got the money if she got it for drink; that child was seven times in gaol, and he was only 12 years of age" (2140).

Children forced to crime by intemperate Parents.

Mr.

245

Crimes planned and stolen goods disposed of at places for the sale of drink.

Mr. Robertson Gladstone, referring also to the connexion between intoxicating drinks and crime, states that "the subject has so frequently come before the magistrates at Liverpool, that they know, that in beerhouses, as well as in licensed public-houses, many thefts and robberies and other crimes are arranged and preconceived" (1069). "In his own experience he has known several prisoners in gaol who after they have been sentenced and convicted have told him where all their plans were arranged, and those beerhouses were generally the places" (1074). And this is confirmed by the head constable of the borough, who returns "the number of beerhouses at which thieves assemble at 32, and at which thieves assemble and dispose of the proceeds of their robberies at 57."

Evil of public-houses and beer-shops in secluded places.

Captain Harris, commanding the constabulary of the county of Hants, states, that "in secluded and solitary places of the county there are beerhouses which sheep-stealers and others frequent until respectable people have gone to rest, when there is more facility for committing offences. It has frequently been the case that sheep-stealers have been apprehended in such houses and afterwards convicted" (7051. 2. 4). The Rev. John Clay, who for 32 years has been chaplain of the Preston House of Correction, and has laboured incessantly in reforming criminals, and tracing the courses of crime, states, "that at least 35 per cent. of crime must be set down as the direct effect of drinking in beerhouses and public-houses" (6016); and he further gives as the result of his experience, "that prisoners, after their discharge, if they only keep sober, keep out of prison" (6327). This return to crime, as the result of drunkenness, is also referred to by Mr. Thomas Wright, who states, "that a child let loose from prison will return to bad habits unless he is removed from his parents" (2140).

Necessity to control the sale of intoxicating drinks.

Your Committee do not feel it necessary to follow further the evidence upon the connexion of intoxicating drinks with crime; it has, directly or indirectly, been the subject of inquiry at different times, and has been reported upon by numerous Committees of Your Honourable House, who bear unvarying testimony both to the general intemperance of criminals and the increase and diminution of crime in direct ratio with the increased or diminished consumption of intoxicating drinks. It is universally admitted that the great majority of criminals are intemperate, and that, as might be looked for from the hours at which their unlawful pursuits are carried on, their idle and lurking habits, their necessity to meet their associates without being open to suspicion, and their rapid alternations of abundance and want, the lowest class of public-houses and beershops are their most frequent haunts. The evidence already referred to (and which, coming from persons of such ample experience, is entitled to especial weight) goes farther, and tends to establish that whatever individual propensity there may be to crime is, with few exceptions, brought into activity by habits of intemperance; that children are driven forth to crime to feed an appetite for drink that bears no control, and knows no natural affection, and that even criminals cease from crime if they cease to be drunken. It must always be matter of extreme difficulty in any question of social statistics to separate direct from collateral causes, and it has been considered open to dispute whether in all cases the increase of crime were properly attributable to an increased consumption of intoxicating drinks, or whether the increase might not in both cases be traceable to some common source. With regard, however, to that portion of the question more particularly belonging to the inquiry of Your Committee, the necessity for a more efficient control of all places for the sale of intoxicating drinks, there arises no such difficulty. The entire evidence tends to establish that it is essential that the sale of intoxicating drinks shall be under strict supervision and control; and so much good has resulted from the inspection of common lodging-houses by police selected for that particular duty, that Your Committee would strongly advise the adoption of the same system, where possible, with regard to places for the sale of intoxicating drinks, which would thus be brought under constant and uniform supervision.

Committee recommend appointment of inspectors of public-houses.

The Maine Liquor Law.

It need not be matter of surprise that in view of the vast mass of evils found in connexion with intemperance, it should have been suggested altogether to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks. Laws to that effect are in force in the States of Maine, Massachussetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Michigan, in the United States; and Your Committee have had before them

several zealous promoters of an association established to procure the enactment of similar laws in England.

The testimony is universal that the greatest amount of drinking takes place on Saturday night, and during the hours that the houses are allowed by law to be open on Sunday.

Extent of Sunday drunkenness.

In Manchester an inquiry conducted with great care, "extending over six successive Sundays, and including 159 spirit vaults, 256 public-houses, 1,041 beerhouses, gave as the average number of visits on Sunday to the 1,456 houses, 119,533 men, 70,478 women, and 22,232 children; a total of 212,243" (1992. 1996). "These were visits; the same person may have paid more than one visit to a house, and may have visited several, but if it be even taken for granted that every person paid three visits, still the number would be over 70,000, or between a fourth and fifth of the entire population; this attendance was from half-past 12 to three in the afternoon, and from half-past four to 10 at night" (1996). And a witness who was one of those employed on the above inquiry, states "that there are a great many people drunk in the streets of Manchester on Sunday" (2045)

Numbers visiting public-houses in Manchester on Sunday.

Drinking in low neighbourhoods in London, on Sunday.

Mr. Weylland, a missionary in connexion with the London City Mission, and who has been appointed to visit public-houses, beershops, and coffeeshops, chiefly in the parish of Mary-le-bone, states that "he generally finds the public-houses and beershops, especially the latter, and the gin-palaces, crowded of a Sunday evening" (8). "In low neighbourhoods the public-houses are clustered together; in five houses in Lisson Grove, of which two were beershops, there were 222 persons drinking, and about 30, two or three of whom were women, were drunk" (18. 24, 25.) The same witness gives it as his opinion, based upon his own investigations, and inquiries amongst publicans themselves, that "there are more persons in the public-houses and beershops of Mary-le-bone, during the hours of divine service on the Sunday evening, than there are in all the churches and chapels in the parish. On the night of the census of 1851 there were 17,805 persons in those places of worship, and from nine to eleven there would be 20,000 persons in the public-houses and beershops," (10, 11. 14).

A greater number in drinking houses than in the churches, Mary-le-bone.

Same as to Bolton, Lancashire.

A return of the number of persons found in 12 beerhouses, and the like number of public-houses in Bolton, between eight and nine p. m. on Sunday evening, 4th June 1854, serves to corroborate this statement: "There were in the public-houses, 231; beerhouses, 195; other houses were much more numerously attended than those given in the return; but taking these as an average, the total number of persons in the 326 public-houses and beerhouses in the borough would be for those two hours on the Sunday, 5,651, being nearly equal to the number of persons present in all the places of worship in the borough on the evening of Sunday, March 1851, when the census was taken" (*see* Appendix.

Drunkenness on Sunday exceeds that of any other day.

Another witness states, that "in every part of the metropolis where there is a thick working population, the people (on Sundays) wait at the corners to rush into the public-houses directly they are opened" (2757). In one district he placed himself in a position that "he could see three public-houses, and the rush into those houses was frightful" (4754). The Rev. J. I. Baylee, a clergyman of the Church of England, states "his conviction, that the mode in which public-houses are at present open on the Sunday is one of the greatest means of demoralization, particularly as affecting the working classes" (275). "The proportion of cases taken into custody for drunkenness on the Sunday far exceeds the proportion on any other day in the week" (919). And Mr. Card, who has given much attention to the subject, states, that "in agricultural districts the Sunday drinking in beerhouses is very bad; the people spend the whole afternoon in them" (1906).

Good effects of closing public-houses during part of the Sunday.

Your Committee have had letters handed in by the Rev. Mr. Baylee, received by him from the chiefs of police at Birmingham, Hull, Derby, Liverpool, and Bradford, showing that considerable good has resulted from the 11th & 12th Vict. c. 49, requiring the public-houses to be closed during the hours of Divine service.

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The superintendent of the borough police at Bradford, writes, "In reply to yours, I beg to inform you that my residence in Bradford commenced after the passing of the Act for closing public-houses, &c., during a portion of the Lord's Day, came into operation, therefore I cannot speak of its effects here; but a portion of my eleven years' service in the Liverpool Police Force was before the Act came into operation, and truly the change was wonderful, and that it is a most beneficial law there cannot be a question; on the contrary, there is an abundance of proof of it. For two years I was located in that portion of Liverpool called Vauxhall-road, a district very similar to Lambeth-cut, and the scenes I there witnessed from three to six o'clock on Sunday mornings I shall never forget. The publicans usually closed from 12 at night to three, A.M., in order to clear out their drunken company, and to enable them to get their places of business set a little straight for Sunday; those parties retiring from the public-houses at 12, more or less intoxicated, seldom thought of going to bed for the night, but just a little repose and sleep to fit them to commence their intemperate habits again at three o'clock; then followed the most horrid scenes of drunkenness and riot, such as no pen can describe; but so soon as the new regulation was put in force the Sunday morning riots and debauchery were at once stopped, and by two o'clock the streets became quiet" (232). Improvement at Liverpool.

"A special return by the chief constable made to the court of quarter sessions at Salford, 9th April 1849; showing the number of persons apprehended and summoned for drunkenness on Sunday, in the several divisions of the county, for six months prior to the passing of the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 49, and also for six months subsequent thereto, and the effects thereby produced, according to reports from superintendents of divisons," gives the total numbers apprehended and summoned for drunkenness, in the 16 divisions, in the six months prior to the passing of the Act, at 694, and in the six months subsequent to the Act (507). The remarks of the superintendent of the several divisions, with one exception, speak of a very marked improvement as the result of the closing (*see* Appendix. Improvement general throughout Lancashire.

A witness states that "when the houses were open on Sunday many used to go out, intending only a walk, and to get treating and get drunk, which now they do not do" (1311, 1312). Several witnesses have given evidence to the same effect. A mechanic states that "the working classes have become much more orderly, and demean themselves better than they used to do, on account of the closing so far of public-houses on the Sunday" (895). Improvement in London.

Others go farther, and recommend that the houses should be closed throughout the entire day. A licensed victualler, who keeps his own house closed on the Sunday, expresses the opinion that "to close the houses on that day would be one of the greatest boons that could be given to the working poor" (493). The Chaplain of Preston Gaol states that "almost all the labouring classes there would wish them closed" (6303). The Rev. J. Baylee is of opinion that "the working classes would rejoice at the restriction, that drunkards would be glad to have the temptation out of their way, and that there is scarce a woman who is not in favour of the closing" (249). The Rev. Mr. Clay is of opinion, as the result of a close acquaintance with the working classes, that "the labouring man is a mere child; if he were to see the door fastened, he would be content to go away" (235); and Dr. Lees, of Leeds, who has for many years exerted himself in the instruction of the people, says "the policy of the working classes is to avoid temptation, resist it they cannot; the appetite for strong drinks is of such a peculiar physical and moral over-riding nature, as to destroy all their best impulses" (4239). Proposal that public houses and beershops shall be closed all day on Sunday.

Large numbers of the working classes, however, display something more than mere passiveness with regard to the Sunday closing. It is stated that "about 270,000 signatures have been obtained to a declaration in its favour, a large proportion of which are those of working men" (252). Mr. Card, treasurer to the United Kingdom Alliance, an association organised to promote the enactment in England of a law similar to that of Maine, in the United States of America, prohibiting altogether the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks, states that "he has inquired as to the opinion in large towns about closing on Sunday, and thinks there are hardly two opinions amongst the people. It would be practicable, and it would tend greatly to diminish drunkenness." Dr. Working men in favour of the proposal.

The working classes wish to be kept from the temptation to drink on the Sunday.

Lees further states, that "during the last three years he has made frequent visits to the chief towns of Scotland, Ireland, and England, especially the manufacturing districts; he knows the feelings of the working classes especially, and with that feeling many of the middle ranks sympathise, to be freed as much as practicable from the temptations of the public-house; and especially to have those houses closed upon the Sabbath" (4221).

Testimony of working men to the advantage of closing places for the sale of intoxicating drinks on Sunday.

Your Committee have examined some witnesses of the working class. A carpenter and joiner, residing at Norwood, gives it as his opinion that "the general feeling with the mechanics is, that they wish the public-houses were closed altogether on the Sunday, and that their wives concur in the opinion" (731–733).

A coach painter at Brixton-hill states, that "the working classes would very much approve of the houses being closed throughout the Sunday. A man in the neighbourhood took a petition round upon the subject, and got 370 signatures. Many of the signatures were those of drunkards; the whole those of working men. The men do not go out with the intention of spending two or three hours in a public-house, but they cannot resist the temptation when they pass by, and they wish to be saved from it" (838 to 843).

"A stone potter, working at an establishment in Lambeth, at which 60 men are employed, has obtained the signatures of 50 out of the 60 to a petition in favour of Sunday closing; but though they have signed the petition, and believe the houses ought to be closed on the Sunday, the temptation is too great for some, and they still go to those houses" (1112. 1116–1124).

A foreman stonemason, resident in the Blackfriars-road, states that he believes closing public-houses on Sunday would be an immense moral advantage to t working classes (1087).

A cab-driver, resident at Gower Mews, and who for 40 years has been a hackney coach driver, states that "there are not many customers on Sunday, unless it rains in the evening; there is a great inducement for cabmen to go into public-houses when they are waiting about; they are drawn into the public-houses from their being open; they cannot withstand the temptation; but all of them he has spoken to on the subject think it would be a very good thing that the public-houses should be closed on the Sunday" (943–5). "The cabmen would suffer no inconvenience in consequence of their closing; those who come out on Saturday night at 10 o'clock provide themselves with a bottle of beer, or what they want, and put it into the boot of the cab, and they could do the same thing on Sunday if they were out" (929). "Since the passing of the last Act there have been many licences taken out for six-day cabs; they do not ply at all on the Sunday; most of the drivers express the wish that the public-houses were shut on Sunday" (970).

Public meetings in favour of closing on Sunday.

The attention of Your Committee has also been called to some more general expressions of opinion upon this subject; it is stated that "public meetings, recently held at Yarmouth and Stockton-on-Tees, were unanimously in favour of Sunday closing" (249).

"A public meeting held in the City Hall, Manchester, at which several merchants and tradesmen were present, and which was very crowded, chiefly with working people, adopted without any dissentient a petition, which, signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, has since been presented to your Honourable House for the entire closing of public-houses on the Sunday" (2079–2084).

Number and importance of such meetings.

It is given in evidence by Dr. Lees, that "he has within the last six months attended at least 40 public meetings in all the chief towns in the North; some of the meetings have been of a very important character, at least half of them have been presided over by the mayors of the several towns. There were meetings at Waterford, Belfast, Dundee, Dumbarton, Carlisle; they were all public meetings, and there was not at any of them the slightest opposition to the proposal for closing the public-houses on the Sunday" (4235, 4236).

A meeting of not fewer than 20,000 persons has been held in the Cloth Hall at Leeds, at which the mayor presided, and declared the resolution in favour of Sunday closing carried by a large majority; parties who were present state that there were at least two to one in favour of closing; and at a subsequent meeting at the Music Hall, held in the evening, open to every one, and which

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is stated to have been crowded to excess, there was but one hand held up in opposition to the resolution for Sunday closing" (4221. 4223. 4231).

Your Committee have also had evidence of a growing opinion amongst publicans themselves in favour of closing.

Opinion amongst Publicans in favour of closing all day on Sunday.

Mr. Wm. Howarth states that at "Manchester there is a petition in course of signature by the publicans themselves for Sunday closing; they want a day of rest as well as others, and would be very glad if the houses were closed" (2036). Mr. Weylland states that "of 125 publicans and beershop-keepers, chiefly in the parish of Marylebone, 40 signed in favour of entire closing on the Sunday; 36 expressed their willingness to sign it, if they were permitted to open for two hours in the middle of the day to supply the public with the necessary articles of consumption; many of those expressed an opinion that they ought also to open for one or two hours in the evening; 14 said they belonged to the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Association, and they intended to leave the matter entirely with them; 34 were opposed to the petition on private and public grounds. One licensed victualler refused to sign because of the exception in favour of *bonâ fide* travellers and lodgers. He was of opinion that no intoxicating liquor ought to be sold on a day set apart for Divine worship" (38).

Signatures of publicans to a petition to that effect in Marylebone.

Mr. Timothy Maber, who for 28 years has carried on business as a publican in Islington, "is of opinion that it would be advantageous to publicans to have their houses closed on Sunday" (293). "There is a feeling that if they were closed the trade would be more respectable" (299). The matter would arrange itself in a month (315); "there would be very little loss to publicans, and great benefit to the public" (322.) A publican who a couple of months since gave 7,000 *l.* for the goodwill of his house has signed a petition for Sunday closing (311). He took a petition round in his own neighbourhood, and 19 out of 24 of the landlords on whom he called signed in favour of closing the houses entirely on Sunday (295). He and a neighbour a few doors off have closed their houses on the Sunday for the last 10 years (297).

Publicans who close on Sunday.

Mr. Henry Glass, a licensed victualler in the Hackney-road, keeps his house closed throughout the Sunday, and has done so for the six months he has had the establishment (439, 440). It was formerly kept open on Sunday; he purchased the goodwill; is doing a larger business than his predecessor (501. 504); his customers are persons from the neighbourhood, and comprise a large body of workmen; he hears them all speak in high terms of the closing (445. 449). There is a beerhouse close to him that is also closed (444).

Mr. R. J. Chamen, also a licensed victualler, carrying on business in Tottenham Court-road, and keeping his house closed on Sundays (578. 580), states "that possibly the first Sunday or two he lost a little, but it was made up after; all who were his customers before are customers now" (585. 587. 591).

Mr. Henry Wren, superintendent of police at Merthyr-Tydvil, where, with a population in the town and immediate neighbourhood of 100,000, there are 208 licensed victuallers, and 298 beerhouses, and where, from actual observation, "he estimates, that from eight to 11 o'clock on the Sunday evening, there is an average number of 22 persons in each licensed victualler's, and of 18 in each beershop, states that a petition for Sunday closing has been numerously signed, not only by working men, but, with one exception, by the whole of the publicans and beershop-keepers. If the law were general they would prefer the closing, in order that they might obtain rest like other tradesmen" (2858 to 2878).

Your Committee find that it is the practice of such publicans as close on the Sunday, and there seem to be many who do so throughout the country, to provide their customers with stone-bottles and jars in which to take their beer home, well corked, on Saturday night for Sunday use. The best evidence that the practice is found to answer is, that they, none of them, speak either of complaints of their customers or loss of custom. Mr. Chamen states that "if it is well corked down, and the bottle kept standing on the cork so as to keep it air-tight, the beer will drink equally well on the following day" (591).

Several witnesses express the opinion that closing the houses throughout the entire Sunday would be productive of great inconvenience. Mr. Homer, a licensed victualler, and wholesale wine and spirit merchant in the city of

Opinion of Publicans in opposition to Sunday closing.

London, states that, he believes such a measure could not be carried out, "a large body of the people would be against such a measure" (3889). Mr. Joseph Stinton, "Chairman of the United Towns Licensed Victuallers Association, comprising Ashton-under-Lyne, Birmingham, Bristol, Bridlington, Coventry, Derby, Hull, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Leicester, Loughborough, Banbury, Bath, Bradford, Exeter, Liverpool, Leamington, Lichfield, Manchester, Macclesfield, Nottingham, Northampton, Oldham, Preston, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Stockport, Staleybridge, Sudbury, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Warrington, and York" (3696), states that, "in all these towns the publicans are strongly opposed to closing the public-houses on Sunday more than the law at present lays down" (3702). It is scarcely possible to carry any enactment into effect opposed to the convenience or ordinary habits of any large number of the people. The law seems to be already very extensively evaded. The same witness states that the law is very much broken on the Sunday morning in all towns. He has made inquiries, and finds that "the people get into the beerhouses and into the licensed victuallers' houses, and are hid by the landlords" (3725. 3729. 3732).

Mr. Homer states that, "There is a great deal of drunkenness on Sunday morning, and I believe not only the beershops but some licensed victuallers infringe the law on Sunday morning" (3885).

Evasions of the existing law as to closing on Sunday.

It is stated by another witness, that "Drunkenness on the Sunday takes place chiefly in the beerhouses, where there are concealed rooms or premises at the back, where the drunkards are harboured out of sight of the police" (6334).

One of the superintendents of police in the return already referred to, reporting upon the operation of the Act closing the houses during the hours of the morning and afternoon service, states that "Habitual drunkards are in the habit of assembling at private houses (having previously laid in a stock when the public-houses close), where they continue drinking through the night, and, not unfrequently all next day, quarrelling and fighting. Hush-shops are on the increase."

Another witness states, that "At Birmingham the afternoon closing has never been enforced; the whole of the public-houses and beershops open at one, and remain open for the remainder of the afternoon and evening."

Public-houses are closed all day on Sunday in Scotland.

An Act enforcing the total closing throughout Sunday has recently come into operation in Scotland; but although Your Committee have had evidence of its beneficial effects, there has not yet been sufficient time to test how far it will be practically supported by public opinion, or will give rise to remonstrance or evasions.

Suggestions of publicans and others as to further closing.

Your Committee are, however, of opinion that the time has arrived for some further change. Persons connected with and interested in the trade themselves have expressed a willingness to adopt an additional limitation of the hours during which public-houses may be open on Sunday. It has been suggested, as likely to meet the views of a large majority as well of the public as of persons engaged in the trade, that the houses shall be permitted to be open from one to three in the afternoon, and from six until nine in the evening, or that they shall remain closed until five in the afternoon, and shall be open from five to ten at night.

Mr. William Speechly, a licensed victualler in Southwark, "opens his house at one, closes at five, and does not open again until after eight. He considers the one o'clock closing has done a good deal of good; it would do more if they were closed till five; the people would be obliged to provide their families with dinner, and be obliged to stop at home and partake of it, if the public-houses were not open at all till five (4141). There are many publicans who would not be averse to closing their houses till five on Sunday" (4160).

Several witnesses speak of the advantage that would be derived from prohibiting drinking on the premises on Sunday, which would prevent mere tippling, without interfering with the home habits of the people. The Rev. Mr. Thornburgh, minister of the temporary church of St. Thomas, at Kennington, says, "if you allow people to congregate on Sunday, when they have nothing to do,

do, they will be likely to get drunk. I would not allow them to drink at the houses at all; I would have them open for one specific object, to furnish families or individuals with whatever drink they may require, to be taken away" (4095).

Your Committee are of opinion that any of these suggestions would be attended in practice with great moral advantage, and with no real public inconvenience. Selling only for consumption off the premises is liable to evasion; but there does not seem sufficient reason for allowing any places for the sale of intoxicating drinks to be open on the Sunday for more than four hours, nor for the distinction between public-houses and beershops as to the hours of closing on week days.

Opinion of the Committee that no place for the sale of intoxicating drinks shall be open for more than four hours on the Sunday.

Your Committee do not feel it necessary to pursue further the evidence upon this point; they have gone so far at length into it with the object of showing the condition of public opinion upon the subject. It is important that those engaged in the trade should be made aware that there is a rapidly-growing conviction abroad, spreading even into their own ranks, in favour of closing throughout the entire Sunday all places for the sale of intoxicating drinks.

Public-houses and beershops to close at the same hours on all days.

Your Committee cannot conclude this portion of their Report without calling attention to the fact of how few places of rational enjoyment are open to the great mass of the population on Sunday, which serve as a counter-attraction to the public-house. They have it in evidence that wherever such opportunities have been provided, they have been eagerly seized upon, and have led to the decrease of intemperance.

Places of rational recreation should be open on Sunday.

Mr. Richardson, a land and building surveyor, who for 45 years has been resident at Manchester, and has during the whole of the time taken part in every movement amongst the working classes, states that "since the public parks have been opened, the people frequent them instead of the public-houses. The sale of intoxicating drinks is prohibited in the parks by a clause in the deed of covenant, conveying them to the towns (3526). The people do not frequent the public-houses in the neighbourhood of the parks (3529); he knows, from having had to value them, that the public-houses and beershops along the line of roads in the neighbourhood of the parks do not sell for as much as before the parks were opened (3529); the people stay in the park as long as they can, and then go home (3533); there is a disposition to go to such places as the Museum and Free Library; they are not open on Sundays, but it would have a good effect to open them, and it is generally desired that they should be open" (3537, 3538). The Rev. Mr. Clay states "that such places would come into competition with the public-houses, and he sees no religious objection to their being open on Sunday" (6424, 6425).

Such places are a counter attraction to the public-house.

Your Committee have received valuable evidence on this matter from Mr. James Haughton, of Dublin, and from Sir Joseph Paxton.

Mr. Haughton, a merchant of the highest standing in Dublin, states that "in 1840 the gardens of the Zoological Society, in the Phœnix Park, were opened after morning service on the Sundays, at 1*d.* admission, with the object of attracting the people from the public-houses (2512–17). The extent to which the populace have availed themselves of the boon is shown by the fact, that from a total population of about 250,000, there were in that year (ending March 1841) 81,404 Sunday visitors to the gardens, whilst upon all the other days of the week, and including 2,387 free admissions, there were but 16,001 visitors. During the 13 subsequent years the numbers have varied considerably. The highest was in 1845, when there were 98,704 Sunday visitors; the lowest was 49,096 in 1850; whilst in the present year the numbers have been 87,325. There are no intoxicating liquors of any kind sold in the gardens (2533). The conduct of the visitors may be judged of from the circumstance, that the Council of the Royal Zoological Society were at first unwilling to accede to the request which Mr. Hamilton submitted to them to open their gardens on Sunday, lest injury should result; they opened the gardens to the poor at a low rate after six o'clock in the evening, on the summer evenings, and the people conducted themselves so admirably on those oacasions, that they had no hesitation whatever in extending the boon to Sunday, after church hours; the consequence is, that they have received a very large accession of income, and have given an immense

Good effects of opening Dublin Zoological Gardens at Dublin on Sunday.

amount of rational and innocent amusement to the people, of which they would otherwise have been deprived (2540); and after 14 years' experience, the Council, in a memorial recently presented to the Lord Lieutenant, and embodied in their Twenty-second Annual Report, state "that they have afforded to the working classes a most attractive place of rational recreation, of which they fully avail themselves, and in which they manifest a conduct so decorous as to claim still further indulgence" (2532). A letter, read by the witness, from the secretary of the Dublin Mechanics' Institution to the secretary of the Zoological Society, just after it was opened in the year 1840, places in a clear light the importance attached to the opening:

Testimony of the Council of the Zoological Society to the excellent conduct of the people.

Appreciation of the advantage by members of the Mechanics' Institute.

"Sir,—I am instructed by the Board of Directors to express their gratitude to the council of the Royal Zoological Society of Dublin, for the valuable means of improvement and innocent relaxation which they have placed within the reach of the working classes in opening their Gardens on Sundays at a premium so very low, that the humblest may (if so disposed) participate in the advantages and enjoyments they afford. May we not hope that other public institutions will follow your praiseworthy example, particularly those at whose disposal large public funds are placed? To such opportunities of improvement as your society now affords is mainly owing the intelligence, the appreciation of works of art, and that polish of manner so marked in the natives of those countries whose higher tastes and educational wants are consulted and provided for.—By order, Zechariah Dowling, Honorary Secretary and Operative Printer" (2533).

"There are in Dublin a Museum of the Royal Society, and their Botanical Gardens at Glasnevin, which are closed on Sunday; there would be no mischief done if they were open. The Botanical Gardens are an exceedingly beautiful place, and would be highly attractive to large numbers of the working classes" (2537-8).

Chatsworth being opened on Sunday prevents intemperance.

Sir Joseph Paxton states that "from three to five, and even so many as 800 persons used to come on Sundays from Sheffield to go over the house and grounds at Chatsworth (3095). They had to go afterwards to the public-houses for their vehicles, but used never to sit sotting and drinking, nor to cause disturbances (3096). About 10 years since, his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, in answer to a petition from his servants (who found the duty of attendance both on week-days and Sundays too onerous), closed Chatsworth altogether on the Sunday. Nearly the same numbers of persons as before came into the neighbourhood on Sundays, but having no longer the interest of viewing the park and the house, they used to revel at the public-houses and create great disturbances. On representation of these facts the Duke re-opened, not the house, but the park, and all the outer grounds. Since then there has been no difficulty about the public-house nuisance (3095); the people behave exceedingly well, and it has not been found necessary to employ more than two men to look after the grounds on Sunday" (3099-3102).

The working classes are ready to avail themselves of the means of improvement.

"There is a better taste growing up amongst the people (3158). If the working classes have the means, they will improve themselves on Sunday. The Kew Gardens have been open on the Sunday since last year, and a very large number of people go to them" (3152-3). The witness states further that "he has been particularly struck with the reverence which the lower classes display for anything grand or beautiful (3110). He is confident that if abundant facilities are opened to them for recreation, and all kinds of rational amusement, it will tend very much to their elevation (3109). To give a poor man, who is industrious and hardworking, and who attends for six days in the week to business, the opportunity of recreation at the Crystal Palace on the Sunday afternoon, would be doing him an incalculable amount of good (3717). The price of admission should be so low as to afford everybody an opportunity of visiting it; it should be opened about half-past one; the Directors would agree to suspend the sale of intoxicating liquors on the Sunday, and there can be no doubt that the vast numbers who would assemble would be very easily controlled, and would require very little police supervision" (3118-20-21).

Intemperance increased by closing

A working man, living in the neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace, states that "there is a great deal of drunkenness on Sunday night in the public-houses at

253

at Norwood; a great number of people come down to see the building during the Sunday, and stop at the public-houses, where they get intoxicated, and make a great disturbance during the evening" (763). This is precisely what, in the neighbourhood of Chatsworth, used to happen during the period the grounds remained closed.

places of rational relaxation on Sunday.

The prevention of the admission of the public to places of rational recreation and instruction on Sunday arises from an Act of George the Second, which prohibits money from being taken for admission to any place whatever on the Sunday; the Act is evaded at several music saloons and tea gardens, &c. by the sale of refreshment tickets being made to cover a nominally free admission; and it is openly broken at Greenwich Hospital, where a fee of 2 *d.* is allowed to be taken for admission on Sunday to the hall and chapel.

Evasion of law as to places of recreation on Sunday.

Your Committee cannot but remark upon the impolicy of suffering the continuance of a law which is preventive only to those who will not stoop to devices for its evasion, and who from the excellence of their objects and the superiority of their position should, of all others, be exempt from such restrictions. The system that suffers the singing saloons of Manchester and Liverpool, and Cremorne, and the Eagle Tavern Gardens, to be open on the Sunday, and shuts in the face of all but the proprietors and those who may have free admission the gardens of the Zoological Society, and the vast and varied school of "ocular instruction," provided within the grounds and building of the Crystal Palace, is scarcely consistent. But there are other places of public instruction, the complete closing of which throughout the Sunday seems to Your Committee still less excusable. The National Gallery, the British and Geological Museums, the exhibitions at Marlborough and Gore House, and other places of public instruction, are paid for by the nation; and it does not seem to Your Committee reasonable that these places should be closed upon the only day that it is possible for the majority of the population to visit them without serious loss.

Opinion of the Committee that the national institutions, &c., should be open on Sunday.

It has been objected, that to have the several national and other exhibitions open on the Sunday, must of necessity deprive the servants of those establishments of their day of rest. It has been suggested to Your Committee that there are numbers of persons who, if it were open to them, would gladly, at a moderate remuneration, volunteer their services for the Sunday after one o'clock, the hour at which it is proposed that all such places shall be opened; and Your Committee are not aware of any serious difficulty in the way of a register of persons, so willing to serve, being kept at the several institutions, or of such persons attending for a time as probationers, in order to make themselves thoroughly conversant with the requisite duties, and it would not then even be needful that the same persons should attend on consecutive Sundays.

The ordinary servants of such places need not attend on Sunday.

Your Committee have also entered very fully upon the inquiry into the regulation of temperance hotels, coffee-shops, &c., and have had sufficient evidence to satisfy them of the expediency of requiring that all temperance hotels, coffee-shops, eating-houses, and shell-fish shops shall be required to be licensed. Several such places are open during the entire night, are frequented, many of them, by bad and doubtful characters, and sell, under pretence of tea and coffee, spirits and other intoxicating drinks without any licence. Colonel Hogg states, that many shops in the country, professing to be coffee-shops, consume spirits; and in proof of the practice being carried on also in London, mentions that during his attendance on the Committee, he went to a coffee-shop at 20 minutes past two on Sunday morning, and asked for some gin, and the man said, "Yes, you shall have it; but you must drink it out of a cup; we cannot give you a glass, or if the police come in, I shall be fined." This was the landlord; it was 20 minutes past two on Sunday morning, and the house was full at that hour; there was a little milk placed on one side in a cream ewer; and I was instructed, if the constable came in, to put a little of that into it (6865-6).

Coffee-shops, temperance hotels, and other places of public refreshment to have licences.

Intoxicating drinks sold at such houses.

Sir Richard Mayne states that "the coffee-shops are represented as scenes of very great disorder and great mischief; there are greater scenes of disorder in coffee-shops than in beer-shops, arising from their not being under the same control as to closing at a particular hour, and being visited by the police." (217) And Mr. Daniel Whittle Harvey says, "we find more violations of the law taking

Disorderly conduct of coffee-shops.

place in coffee-houses which are not under the cognisance of the police than in public-houses. When the publicans are compelled to close their houses on Saturday night, many of their customers, who are well known to the police, resort to these coffee-houses and are there received; and it is immaterial, either as regards disorder or combination for illegal purposes, whether they meet in the coffee-houses or in the public-houses. It would, therefore, appear desirable, if it can be done without undue intrusion upon the rights of individuals, that coffee-houses which are not licensed should be placed under the superintendence of the police" (9369).

Opinion of Committee that such houses should be placed under more strict police control.

Evil of licensing billiard-rooms at beerhouses, &c., to be kept open after the hours for closing for sale of beer, &c.

Your Committee have had their attention directed to the 8th & 9th Vict., c. 109, s. 10, under which licences are allowed to be issued by the magistrates at the annual licensing sessions, for billiard-tables and bagatelle-boards, and which, in addition to encouraging gambling, become the means of the houses being kept open after the legal hours. Sir Richard Mayne states, that "184 licensed victuallers are licensed to have billiard-tables, and 972 to have bagatelle-boards, within the police district. Of the beershops, 142 are licensed to keep billiards, and 297 to keep bagatelle-boards. The superintendents of police state that one evil of the beershops having this licence is, that they are allowed to keep open later."

"The bagatelle-board licence admits of the house being kept open later than the beer licence; and there is a note made by the superintendent, 'It is an inducement for young persons to frequent these houses, and creates a tendency for gaming. The billiard licence to beershop-keepers authorises them to keep their houses open for play till one o'clock a.m.,' and they often evade in that way the general law applicable to them as beershop-keepers' (155–6).

Opinion of Committee that such rooms shall be closed at the same hour as the public-house or beershop.

Your Committee are therefore of opinion that no rooms of any beershop or public-house, licensed for billiards, bagatelle, or any other game, should be permitted to remain open after the hours for the closing the house.

Theatres and other places of entertainment.

As to theatres and other places of public entertainment, Your Committee find the law in a very unsatisfactory state. The 25 Geo. 2, c. 36, requires that "no house, room, garden, or other place shall be kept for public dancing, music, or other public entertainment of the like kind, within the cities of London or Westminster, or within 20 miles thereof, without a licence from the justices assembled at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions, under a penalty of 100*l.*, and that such house shall not open for any of the purposes of the Act before the hour of five in the afternoon." The result of this provision of an obsolete Act is, that no morning musical performance can be given anywhere within 20 miles of London, without the device of patronesses to take it out of the definition of a public entertainment.

Unsatisfactory state of law as to London.

The Lord Chamberlain empowered to license all places for theatrical and other performances.

Magistrates have also power.

The Lord Chamberlain has power to license places for certain performances in the Metropolitan District, and no play can be performed in any part of the kingdom, with the exception of Ireland, until it has been first submitted to the Lord Chamberlain, and licensed by him for performance. The 6 & 7 Vict. c. 68, confers on the magistrates, jointly with the Lord Chamberlain, the power of licensing theatres throughout the kingdom. The second section of the Act provides, "That, except as aforesaid, it shall not be lawful for any person to have or keep any house or other public place of resort in Great Britain, for the public performance of stage plays, without authority by virtue of letters patent from Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, or predecessors, or without licence from the Lord Chamberlain of Her Majesty's household for the time being, or from the justices of the peace, as hereinafter provided; and every person who shall offend against this enactment, shall be liable to forfeit such sum as shall be awarded by the Court in which, or the justices by whom he shall be convicted, not exceeding 20*l.* for every day on which such house or place shall have been so kept open by him for the purpose aforesaid without legal authority." "It is considered that by this clause the power of licensing on the part of the Lord Chamberlain is not restricted to what is properly called a theatre, but embraces other buildings." (8196.)

Penalties for performance without licence.

Performances are given without licence.

Mr. Norman Macdonald, superintendent of the department of the Lord Chamberlain, states, that "performances are given in unlicensed places, arising from

from a defect in the Act, there being no particular person appointed for enforcing the regulations and the penalties of the Act; the consequence is, that the Lord Chamberlain does not like to interfere, and the police do not like to interfere." (8160.)

No authority empowered to enforce the law.

The imperfect definition of the term stage-play, given in the Act, enables persons to have performances, some of them of a very inferior and demoralizing character, in places that are not licensed. The Act declares "that the word 'stage-plays' shall be taken to include every tragedy, comedy, farce, opera, burletta, interlude, melodrama, pantomime, or other entertainment of the stage, or any part thereof." This does not include concerts, songs, ballets, pose plastique performances by an individual, nor the exhibitions of what are termed judge and jury clubs. It is under this interpretation clause that the saloons in Manchester, Liverpool, and other towns produce performances in unlicensed places; and the best remedy for the inferior character of such performances is, that the said Act shall be amended, and that the magistrates shall meanwhile give it a liberal interpretation, and license all such places.

Demoralising performances without licence escape through defective definition of "stage-play."

The sureties required, both in the case of saloons and theatres, seem to Your Committee to be ample. Mr. Macdonald states, "that the manager of a theatre is bound in the sum of 300*l.*, and two sureties of 50*l.*; and the manager of a saloon is only bound in a surety of 200*l.*, and two sureties of 50*l.*; that is the only difference between a licence granted to a theatre or a saloon."

Distinction between saloons and theatres in amount of bond given by managers.

Your Committee remark that the duties of the Lord Chamberlain's office seem to have been performed without any vexatious exercise of the right of censorship. Mr. Macdonald mentions "that in 1850, there were 230 submitted, and none rejected; in 1851, there were 228, and five rejected; and in 1852, 225, and three rejected. One was rejected from the very gross and monstrous nature of the incidents that were introduced into it, that were quite unfit to be put on any stage; they were grossly immoral; two were rejected at the time of the excitement respecting Cardinal Wiseman, on account of their proposing to introduce very offensive allusions to the Roman Catholics; and two of them were French plays, which had had a good deal of success in Paris, but which were still thought not very desirable to produce here." (8130.)

Exercise of censorship by Lord Chamberlain.

Mr. Macdonald states, that "a fee of 2*l.* is paid for any play of three acts or more, and of 1*l.* for any play of one act and not more than three; the fee is paid by the manager, after approval, and if the piece is rejected there is no fee paid."

Fees upon censorship.

Your Committee are, however, of opinion that the payment of fees for the licence to perform plays, or more strictly for the censorship of the Lord Chamberlain, is open to objection. It would seem to be more advisable that a general licence for performances, sanctioned by the Lord Chamberlain, should be issued annually to the manager, and that for the censorship, which should be compulsory as to every performance, there should be no distinct fee. Mr. Serjeant Adams, who has given a very minute consideration to the whole question of public amusements, makes the following suggestions:—"I would supersede the power of the justices to grant licences for public entertainments. The regulation and management of the minor theatres has, by statute 6 & 7 Vict. c. 68, been judiciously vested in the Lord Chamberlain, and two jurisdictions are therefore not required. This alteration would at once put an end to the most mischievous of all the effects of granting licences to public-houses, namely, the theatrical saloons. I would remove the prohibition against morning amusements, which I think needless, and even ridiculous. I would not make it compulsory upon the justices to grant licences for music and dancing, but authorise them to grant licences for both or either at their discretion. I would make it compulsory on them to grant licences for music to all housekeepers (not being licensed victuallers) with testimonials of character and securities for the good conduct of the house. I would prohibit them from granting licences for music and dancing to any licensed victualler within what may be termed the heart of the metropolis; that is to say, I would limit all such licences (when held in conjunction with ale and spirit licences) to public gardens and places in the suburbs; and I would give a discretionary power to grant music licences to all publicans, and music and dancing licences to all other householders within the prescribed district, which I would limit to a reasonable distance from the metropolis, say the district of the metropolitan boroughs. I would place all these licensed houses

Opinion of Committee that an annual licence duty shall be substituted for fees on censorship, and that all places of performances shall be licensed, and all performances subject to censorship.

Suggestions by Mr. Serjeant Adams, for control of places of public amusement.

houses under the strictest surveillance and control of the police and justices, and establish penalties and forfeitures similar in character with those inflicted on offending publicans (and I would give the most ample powers to the police to enter into any unlicensed house and take the inmates into custody), and powers to the police magistrates of fine and imprisonment."

Opinion of Committee that the sale of intoxicating drinks should not be connected with places of public amusement.

Your Committee are fully impressed with the importance of as far as possible dissociating places of public entertainment from the sale of intoxicating drinks. Dramatic and musical performances have a tendency, under strict censorship, to raise the character of the people, and there is evidence of a growing taste for such entertainments amongst the working classes, and which it appears to Your Committee may be made to serve as a powerful counter-attraction to the public-house.

Opinion that places for musical and other entertainment may be useful in the prevention of intemperance.

Your Committee have been impressed with the good effects of the Saturday evening concerts, such as take place at the Lord Nelson-street Rooms, Liverpool, which, on all occasions, are presided over by some person of note or respectability; and they are satisfied that were the example followed, and the means provided independent of public-houses, for the working classes to gratify their taste, especially for music, the result would be a diminution of intemperance, and the refinement of the popular taste.

Your Committee, on consideration of the whole of the evidence, and the public and private interests concerned, have agreed to the following Resolutions:—

Resolved,—

That no intoxicating drink should be sold without a licence.

That there should be one uniform licence for the sale of intoxicating drinks.

That such licences should be issued by the magistrates at sessions holden for that purpose.

That it should be open to all persons of good character to obtain such licence, on compliance with certain conditions, and the payment of a certain annual sum.

That every person, previous to obtaining a licence, should himself give bond, and find two sureties to be bound with him, for the due observance of the law and conditions upon which the licence shall be granted.

That the lowest amount to be paid for a licence should, in rural parishes and small towns, be 6*l.*; in towns or parishes exceeding 5,000 and not exceeding 10,000 inhabitants, it should be 8*l.*; and that, above 10,000, the price should be increased 2*l.* for every 5,000 inhabitants; but that in no case should the price exceed 30*l.*

That in case of any conviction for breach of the law or condition of the licence, the sureties should be at liberty to give notice of the withdrawal of their names as sureties at the next licensing sessions after the date of such notice.

That in large towns and populous places there should be appointed inspectors of public-houses, and all places of public refreshment and entertainment, as in the case of common lodging-houses; and that such inspectors should constantly visit and report upon the condition and conduct of all such houses and places.

That in all cases of drunkenness, and riotous or disorderly conduct, such inspectors should, if necessary, have power to call in the assistance of the police.

That in all cases of trading during the hours prohibited by law, or selling liquors without licence, the persons found actually present should be deemed guilty of the same offence, and should be liable to a penalty not exceeding half of the penalty which may be imposed upon the proprietor.

That all coffee-shops, temperance hotels, shell-fish shops, and similar places of public resort, should be required to be licensed for their respective purposes, and should be subject to be visited and reported upon in the same manner as public-houses; and that the amount to be paid for every such licence should be 2*l.* per annum.

That

That any person selling intoxicating drinks without being licensed for their sale, should be subject to a penalty, to be recovered before the magistrates, not exceeding double the amount required by law to be paid in that locality for a licence to sell intoxicating drinks.

That such publicans and beershop-keepers as are already licensed should not be required to find sureties, nor to pay any higher scale of duties than they are at present required to pay, and should be entitled to the renewal of the licence in every respect as at present; but should be visited and reported upon by the inspectors of public-houses, and should be subject to the same police regulations as are proposed with regard to future licences; and in case of conviction of any offence against the law, should be brought in all respects under the new rules.

That with the exception of the hours of from one to two o'clock p.m., and of from six to nine p.m., all places for the sale of intoxicating drinks should be closed on Sunday, and that on the week-days all such houses should be closed from 11 o'clock p.m. until four o'clock, a.m.

That no public theatrical or musical performance, pictorial or other representation or exhibition, should be permitted without a licence.

That it should be open to all persons to obtain such licence from the Lord Chamberlain, or other competent authority, on payment of a sum not exceeding 5 *l.* per annum, and on giving bond and sureties for the observance of the law and conditions of the licence.

That it is expedient that places of rational recreation and instruction now closed, should be open to the public on Sunday after the hour of Two o'clock, p.m.; and that so far as any such places are now closed by operation of law, such law should be so far amended as to enable the Lord Chamberlain, or other competent authority, to determine what places shall be permitted to be so opened, and for what length of time.

That the several laws relating to the regulation and licensing of beershops, public-houses, and places of entertainment, and the several provisions of the Police and Excise Acts appertaining thereto, should be consolidated and made to accord with these Resolutions.

13 *July* 1854.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Veneris, 19° *die Maii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Brown.	Mr. Gregson.
Mr. Packe.	Lord Dudley Stuart.
Sir John Pakington.	Mr. Lowe.
Sir George Goodman.	Mr. Ker Seymer.
Sir George Grey.	Mr. C. P. Villiers.
Mr. Beckett.	

Mr. C. P. VILLIERS called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated as to their course of proceeding.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, at One o'clock.

Martis, 23° *die Maii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. VILLIERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Mr. Barrow.
Mr. Sotheron.	Lord Dudley Stuart.
Sir George Goodman.	Mr. Ker Seymer.
Mr. Gregson.	Sir George Grey.
Mr. Packe.	

Mr. *John Weylland*, the Rev. *John Baylee*, were severally examined.

Adjourned till Friday, at One o'clock.

Veneris, 26° *die Maii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. VILLIERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Mr. Barrow.
Sir George Grey.	Mr. Ker Seymer.
Mr. Packe.	Mr. Gregson.
Sir George Goodman.	Lord Dudley Stuart.

Mr. *Henry Glass*, Mr. *Richard Chamen*, Mr. *George Haddock*, Mr. *Charles Bowthorpe*, Mr. *Joseph Powell*, Mr. *Edward Bryon*, Mr. *Joseph Wood*, were severally examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, at One o'clock.

Martis, 30° *die Maii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. Villiers, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Mr. Packe.
Sir George Goodman.	Sir John Pakington.
Mr. Gregson.	Sir George Grey.
Mr. Barrow.	Mr. Ker Seymer.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	

Mr. *James Balfour*, Mr. *Robert Hutton*, were severally examined.

[Adjourned till Friday, at One o'clock.

Veneris, 2° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. Villiers, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Sir John Pakington.
Sir George Grey.	Mr. Packe.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Mr. Gregson.
Sir George Goodman.	

Mr. *John Caldwell*, Mr. *Nathaniel Card*, were severally examined.

[Adjourned till Friday, at One o'clock.

Veneris, 9° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. Villiers, in the Chair.

Lord Dudley Stuart.	Mr. Gregson.
Sir George Grey.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Sotheron.	

Mr. *William Howarth*, Mr. *Thomas Wright*, Mr. *John Cunliffe*, were severally examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, at One o'clock.

Martis, 13° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. Villiers, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Sir George Goodman.
Mr. Barrow.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Sotheron.	Mr. Ker Seymer.
Mr. Gregson.	Sir John Pakington.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	

Mr. *James Haughton*, Mr. *Thomas Jackson*, Mr. *Joseph Hunter*, Mr. *Henry Wren*, Mr. *John Everett*, were severally examined.

[Adjourned till Friday, at One o'clock.

Veneris, 16° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. VILLIERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Mr. Lowe.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Sir John Pakington.
Mr. Barrow.	Mr. Packe.
Sir George Goodman.	Mr. Gregson.
Mr. Ker Seymour.	

Mr. *Phillips*, Sir *Joseph Paxton*, Mr. *Robert Neilson*, Mr. *William James*, Mr. *William Spirett*, Mr. *Reginald Richardson*, Mr. *George Clegg*, were severally examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, at One o'clock.

Martis, 20° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. VILLIERS, in the Chair.

Lord Dudley Stuart.	Mr. Sotheron.
Mr. Gregson.	Mr. Packe.
Sir George Goodman.	Mr. Brown.

Mr. *Joseph Stinton*, Mr. *John Homer*, Rev. *Francis Thornburgh*, Mr. *William Speechly*, were severally examined.

[Adjourned till Friday, at One o'clock.

Veneris, 23° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. VILLIERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Mr. Barrow.
Mr. Ker Seymour.	Sir John Pakington.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Mr. Gregson.

The Rev. *Archibald M'Callum*, Mr. *F. R. Lees*, Mr. *Arthur Hassall*, Mr. *John M'Culloch*, were severally examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, at One o'clock.

Martis, 27° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. VILLIERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Mr. Gregson.
Mr. Lowe.	Mr. Packe.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Mr. Sotheron.
Mr. Barrow.	Lord Ernest Bruce.

Mr. *William Hawes*, Mr. *James Balfour*, were severally examined.

[Adjourned to Thursday, 6th July, at One o'clock.

261

Jovis, 6° die Julii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. Villiers, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Sir George Goodmam.
Mr. Barrow.	Mr. Lowe.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Lord Ernest Bruce.
Mr. Gregson.	Mr. Sotheron.

Draft Report proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read 1°.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at One o'clock.

Veneris, 7° die Julii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. Villiers, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Mr. Gregson.
Mr. Barrow.	Sir John Pakington.
Mr. Lowe.	Sir George Goodman.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Mr. Sotheron.

The Committee deliberated on proposed Resolutions to be embodied in their Report.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at One o'clock.

Martis, 11° die Julii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. Villiers, in the Chair.

Mr. W. Brown.	Lord Dudley Stuart.
Sir G. Goodman.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Gregson.	Lord Ernest Bruce.
Mr. Barrow.	Mr. Sotheron.
Sir J. Pakington.	

Committee deliberated.

Motion made, and Question, "That no intoxicating drink should be sold without a licence" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, "That there should be one uniform licence for the sale of intoxicating drinks" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, "That such licences should be issued by the magistrates, at sessions holden for that purpose" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, "That it should be open to all persons of good character to obtain such licence, on compliance with certain conditions, and the payment of a certain annual sum" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, "That every person, previous to obtaining a licence, should himself give bond, and find two sureties to be bound with him, for the due observance of the law and conditions upon which the licence shall be granted" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the lowest amount to be paid for a licence, in any town with a population not exceeding 5,000, be 10 *l.*, and that the amount shall be increased by a scale in the ratio of 10 *s.* for every 5,000 inhabitants, but in no case shall exceed 50 *l.*" (Mr. *C. Villiers.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "Licence" to the end of the Question, in order to add the following words: "should, in rural parishes and small towns, be 6 *l.*; in towns or parishes exceeding 5,000 and not exceeding 10,000 inhabitants, it should be 8 *l.*; and that, above 10,000, the price should be increased 2 *l.* for every 5,000 inhabitants; but that in no case should the price exceed 30 *l.*" (Sir *J. Pakington*), instead thereof.—Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand

stand part of the Question," put and negatived. — Words added. — Main Question, as amended, put. The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 2.
Mr. Brown.	Mr. Barrow.
Sir G. Goodman.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Gregson.	
Sir J. Pakington.	
Lord D. Stuart.	

Motion made, and Question, " That in case of any conviction for breach of the law or condition of the licence, the sureties should be at liberty to give notice of the withdrawal of their names as sureties at the next licensing sessions after the date of such notice" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That there shall be appointed a special class of police for the distinct duty of inspecting public-houses and all places of public refreshment and entertainment; and that such police shall, as in the instance of the common lodging-house inspectors, constantly visit and report upon the condition and conduct of all such houses and places. (Mr. *C. Villiers.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word " That" to the word " Constantly," in order to insert the following words: " In large towns and populous places there should be appointed inspectors of public-houses, and all places of public refreshment and entertainment, as in the case of common lodging-houses; and that such inspectors should" (Mr. *Lowe*), instead thereof.—Question, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," put and negatived.—Words inserted.—Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, " That in all cases of drunkenness and riotous or disorderly conduct, such inspector should, if necessary, have power to call in the assistance of the police" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, " That in all cases of trading during the hours prohibited by law, or selling liquors without licence, the persons found actually present should be deemed guilty of the same offence, and should be liable to a penalty not exceeding half of the penalty which may be imposed upon the proprietor" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, " That all coffee-shops, temperance hotels, shell-fish shops, and similar places of public resort, should be required to be licensed for their respective purposes, and should be subject to be visited and reported upon in the same manner as public-houses; and that the amount to be paid for every such licence should be 2 *l.* per annum" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, " That any person selling intoxicating drinks without being licensed for their sale, should be subject to a penalty, to be recovered before the magistrates, not exceeding double the amount required by law to be paid in that locality for a licence to sell intoxicating drinks" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, " That such publicans and beershop-keepers as are already licensed should not be required to find sureties, nor to pay any higher scale of duties than they are at present required to pay, and should be entitled to the renewal of the licence in every respect as at present; but should be visited and reported upon by the inspectors of public-houses, and should be subject to the same police regulations as are proposed with regard to future licences; and in case of conviction of any offence against the law, should be brought in all respects under the new rules" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, " That with the exception of the hours of from one to two o'clock p.m., and of from six to nine p.m., all places for the sale of intoxicating drinks should be closed on Sunday, and that on the week-days all such houses should be closed from 11 o'clock p.m., until four o'clock a.m. " (Mr. *C Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, " That no public theatrical or musical performance, pictorial or other representation or exhibition, should be permitted without a licence" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, " That it should be open to all persons to obtain such licence from the Lord Chamberlain, or other competent authority, on payment of a sum not exceeding 5 *l.* per annum, and on giving bond and sureties for the observance of the law and conditions of the licence " (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question " That it is expedient that places of rational recreation and instruction now closed, should be open to the public on Sunday after the hour of two o'clock, p.m.; and that so far as any such places are now closed by operation of law, such law should be so far amended as to enable the Lord Chamberlain, or other competent authority, to determine what places shall be permitted to be so opened, and for what length of time " (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, " That the several laws relating to the regulation and licensing

263

licensing of beershops, public-houses, and places of entertainment, and the several provisions of the Police and Excise Acts appertaining thereto, should be consolidated and made to accord with these resolutions" (Mr. *C. Villiers*), put and agreed to.

[Adjourned to To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Mercurii, 12° *die Julii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. C. P. VILLIERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Brown.	Sir John Pakington.
Sir G. Goodman.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Barrow.	Lord Dudley Stuart.

Draft Report read 2°, and considered paragraph by paragraph.

Several Amendments made.

Paragraph, page 23, "The servants of such places need not attend on Sunday," read Question put, "That this paragraph stand part of the proposed Report." The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 2.
Mr. Brown.	Mr. Barrow.
Sir G. Goodman.	Mr. Lowe.
Sir. J. Pakington.	
Lord D. Stuart.	
Mr. Sotheron.	

Other paragraphs read, amended, and agreed to.

Question, "That the Resolutions agreed to yesterday be added to the Report," put, and agreed to.

Question, "That this Report, together with the Resolutions and Minutes of Evidence, be the Report to The House," put, and agreed to.

Ordered, To Report.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME of WITNESS.	PROFESSION or CONDITION.	By what Member of Committee Motion made for Attendance of the Witness.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Discharge.	Total Number of Days in London.	Number of Days under Examination by Committee, or acting specially under their Orders.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	Expenses in London.	TOTAL Expenses Allowed to Witness.
							£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
William Howarth - -	- - - - -	Chairman -	9 June -	10 June -	1	1	4 5 –	1 – –	5 5 –
homas Wright - -	- - - - -	Ditto -	9 „ -	10 „ -	1	1	4 5 –	1 – –	5 5 –
ohn Cunliffe - - -	- - - - -	Ditto -	9 „ -	10 „ -	2	1	3 – –	2 2 –	5 7 –
Henry Wren - - -	- - - - -	Ditto -	12 „ -	13 „ -	2	1	4 3 –	2 2 –	6 5 –
ames Haughton - -	Merchant - -	Ditto -	10 „ -	13 „ -	3	1	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
eginald Richardson -	Land Surveyor -	Ditto -	16 „ -	17 „ -	2	1	2 10 –	4 4 –	6 14 –
ev. A. K. M'Callum -	Clerk - - -	Ditto -	21 „ -	22 „ -	2	1	8 4 –	2 2 –	10 6 –
. R. Lees, LL.D. - -	Surgeon - - -	Ditto -	21 „ -	22 „ -	2	1	5 – –	4 4 –	9 4 –
								£.	55 19 –

LIST OF WITNESSES.

PAGE

Martis, 23° *die Maii*, 1854.

Mr. John Weylland - - - - 1
Rev. John Tyrrell Baylee - - - 17
Mr. Timothy Maber - - - - 25

Veneris, 26° *die Maii*, 1854.

Mr. Henry Glass - - - - 33
Mr. Richard Tewkesbury Chamen - 39
Mr. George Haddock - - - 44
Mr. Charles Bowthorpe - - - 50
Mr. Joseph Powell - - - - 53
Mr. Edward Bryon - - - - 58
Mr. Joseph Wood - - - - 61

Martis, 30° *die Maii*, 1854.

Mr. James Balfour - - - - 64
Robert Hutton, Esq. - - - 82

Veneris, 2° *die Junii*, 1854.

Mr. John Caldwell - - - - 89
Mr. Nathaniel Card - - - - 98

Veneris, 9° *die Junii*, 1854.

Mr. William Howarth - - - 111
Mr. Thomas Wright - - - - 116
Mr. John Cunliffe - - - - 126

Martis, 13° *die Junii*, 1854.

Mr. James Haughton - - - 137
Mr. Thomas Ridley Jackson - - 152

PAGE

Mr. Joseph Hunter - - - - 156
Mr. Henry Wren - - - - 160
Mr. John Everett - - - - 166

Veneris, 16° *die Junii*, 1854.

Thomas Phillips, Esq. - - - 170
Sir Joseph Paxton - - - - 172
Robert Neilson, Esq. - - - 177
Mr. William James - - - - 183
Mr. William Spirett - - - - 191
Mr. Reginald John Richardson - - 196
Mr. George Clegg - - - - 206

Martis, 20° *die Junii*, 1854.

Mr. Joseph Stinton - - - - 208
Mr. John James Homer - - - 219
Rev. Francis Thornburgh - - - 235
Mr. William Speechly - - - 237

Veneris, 23° *die Junii*, 1854.

Rev. Archibald K. M'Callum, A.M. - 239
F. R. Lees, Esq., PH.D. - - - 245
Arthur Hill Hassall, Esq., M.D. - 250
Mr. John M'Culloch - - - 257

Martis, 27° *die Junii*, 1854.

William Hawes, Esq. - - - 265
Mr. James Balfour - - - - 277

264

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 23° *die Maii*, 1854

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. C. P. Villiers.	Mr. Gregson.
Mr. W. Brown.	Lord Dudley Stuart.
Sir George Goodman.	Mr. Packe.
Sir George Grey.	Mr. Sotheron.
Mr. Barrow.	Mr. Ker Seymer.

THE RIGHT HON. C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *John Weylland*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Weylland.*

23 May 1854.

1. *Chairman.*] ARE you a Clergyman?—No, I am a London City Missionary.

2. Under what authority do you act?—Under the authority of the committee of the London City Mission.

3. There is an association of that name, I believe?—Yes.

4. Is it a part of your duty to visit public-houses and beerhouses?—I am appointed by the committee to visit public-houses, beershops, and coffee-shops chiefly in the parish of Marylebone.

5. Are you by that means acquainted with what passes in those houses?—I am in those houses at all times.

6. I believe you do not go there for the purpose of seeing what passes merely, but to meet with numbers of people in a low station of life with whom you wish to converse?—We missionaries go for a religious object, to do good by every means in our power.

7. But you have had an opportunity of seeing the state in which those people are, and what passes in those houses?—I have.

8. Can you give the Committee any information about the condition of those houses during the hours of Divine service in the evening?—I would first speak as to the numbers I find there, and then of the condition of the people. I generally find the public-houses and beershops crowded on the Sunday evening, especially the beershops and gin-palaces.

9. Will you be so good as to state what district you visit where you find those houses in that state?—I visit the parish of Marylebone; I pass through the parish in the course of my visiting.

10. Mr. *Gregson.*] At what hours do you find the houses so crowded on Sunday?—Between the hours of seven and nine o'clock; for instance, we will take last Sunday as a specimen. In one gin-palace I found 61 men and 15 women. In a very small public-house, one of the smallest in the parish, I met with 19 men and four women; occasionally you may meet with less in number than that, but generally more. I have made a calculation after much care, and I have come to the conclusion that there are more persons in public-houses and beershops during the hours of Divine service on the Sunday evening than there are in all the churches and chapels in the parish.

Mr. *J. Weylland.*

23 May 1854.

11. After nine, do they leave those houses?—I will not speak to that so distinctly, because they change classes a great deal. In the parish of Marylebone, in the 49 places of worship, on the night of the census in 1851, there were 17,805 persons in those places of worship. Now, if we divide that number by the 366 public-houses and beershops, we shall have about 49 persons to each public-house and beershop; and I consider, from the observations I have made, and from what has been told me by the publicans, and from what I believe to be their returns, that there must be full that number upon the average in the houses, or rather more.

12. Do you mean that there are 49 persons to each public-house?—Yes.

13. Mr. *Brown.*] Would they not change their position, some going out and others coming in?—I allow them to change once. If a man stops in a public-house for half an hour during Divine service, he does not go to a place of worship; he is most likely to go to another public-house. The publican serves double the quantity during church hours when the men stand lounging about the bars.

14. Mr. *Barrow.*] Were the 17,805 persons you have named as being in the churches and chapels there during the evening service, or during the whole day?—The evening service. Now I will go to the numbers that were in the public-houses from about nine o'clock till 10 o'clock, or from nine o'clock till 11 o'clock; you will find there are more people who have been out pleasuring and the like; they may come in, and their numbers are added to by men in the summer time, who do not come out till towards the evening: I generally find more persons late in the evening, than in the former part of the evening; I suppose there may be nearly 20,000 persons.

15. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you mean that there are 20,000 persons in those places from nine to 11?—No; from nine to 12.

16. Are those 20,000 people in addition to the 17,000?—No; some of those would be present at the same time; I mean to say, that there are a larger number of persons in the latter part of the evening.

17. *Chairman.*] Do you know the population of the district of which you are speaking?—157,696.

18. Do you speak of the whole of Marylebone?—Yes; with respect to the condition of the people, I found a great many drunk; last Sunday night I went into a number of houses; there are five houses in the centre of Lisson-grove. In most low neighbourhoods you will find a cluster of houses together; I happened, on Sunday night, to go into five of those houses, three licensed houses, and two beershops; I would remark that none of those houses have rooms for the accommodation of people. This business is transacted in the bars. There were in one public-house 40 men and 19 women; in another 28 men, and nine women; in a beershop 25 men and eight women; in a gin-palace 56 men and 14 women, and in a low beershop 19 men and three women; making a total of 168 men and 53 women; or a gross total of 221.

19. Three of those houses, you say, were beer-shops?—No; three licensed houses and two beershops; I merely mention this to show the numbers; I should be careful to distinguish the respectable licensed houses from the gin-palace and the low beershop, because there are numbers of houses in the parish in which the landlords will not serve a person who is intoxicated, and who will not encourage gin or beer drinking to excess; there are a large number of respectable publicans who are grieved at the excess, but they cannot remedy it.

20. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you, as a missionary, go to converse with these people?—I go into the houses and give tracts to the landlords and the bar servants; I then turn round and converse with those at the bar.

21. Do you sit down with them?—Yes; if it is the best way of getting into conversation with them; I generally stand; I pass into the rooms, if there are any.

22. *Chairman.*] As you have considerable experience in the Marylebone district, can you state a little more about the other houses, and what condition they are in; the houses to which you have referred, I presume, are houses of rather a bad character?—I will not say that; they are a class of houses at which working men of the poorer class, navigators, dirty shoemakers, and the very lowest class assemble; many of them are very dirty.

23. The

267

Mr. *J. Weylland.*

23 May 1854.

23. The people to whom you have referred on the Sunday evenings?—Yes; their condition is most appalling; I might say I should suppose there were 30 people drunk in those houses.

24. Mr. *Gregson.*] Thirty people were drunk out of what number?—Out of 221; it is a rough calculation, but I should think there were quite as many. I will finish this statement by mentioning the condition of the houses between nine and 11 o'clock in the evening; I passed last Sunday through the parish. There is one house in the centre of the parish at which there is every attraction held out to draw the people; there is a large gin-palace with a great deal of gilding and plenty of gaslight; there is a self-acting organ in the bar which cost 120 guineas. The bar was crowded with men and women; it is divided into two large compartments; the organ was playing a merry tune, and there were 43 men and 14 women together; a large number were drunk, and they were generally a dirty and low class of persons.

25. Were the women drunk as well as the men?—There were two or three; there is a proportion of drunken women at those houses.

26. Lord *D. Stuart.*] At what time of the day was it?—Between nine and 10 o'clock on Sunday evening.

27. *Chairman.*] Did you remain in that house for any time?—I suppose about a quarter of an hour. When I found so many drunk, it would have been foolish of me to talk on sacred matters to them; I go for no other object.

28. Did you see any attempt on the part of the publican to remove those people who were drunk, or did he refuse to serve them with liquor?—There was no attempt when I was there.

29. Do you often see publicans attempting to turn men out of their houses, or refuse to serve them if they are drunk?—I have frequently gone into a public-house and seen men or women drunk ask for more gin or beer, and the landlord has said, "No, we do not serve you; you have had enough;" and those persons have left.

30. You cannot say that there are any houses where people are served when evidently in a state of intoxication?—To me it appears as though there are certain houses which may be called drunkards' houses; I meet with a great many people in a state of inebriation or a state of drunkenness in them.

31. You have visited those houses frequently; you have constantly seen persons in that state, and you have come to the conclusion that in those houses people are suffered to drink although they are drunk already, and that those people go to those houses in consequence?—Yes; I believe that anybody, drunk or sober, may have liquor; whether they are good or bad characters, abandoned women or not, they will serve them.

32. Do you know any instance in which those houses have been interfered with, and evidence has been given against them before a magistrate?—No, I do not.

33. How long have you been in your present capacity as a missionary?—I have been a missionary for five years and two months. During my first four years I was in the parish of Marylebone, on the Marylebone Theatre district; I visited from house to house amongst the poor people connected with the theatre, and others; the last 15 months I have been appointed to visit public-houses, to ascertain whether any practical good would result from visiting public-houses for religious purposes; I have been 13 months public-house visiting.

34. What is the result of your experience in that respect; do you find that you can do any good in public-houses?—There is an opportunity offered of conversing with the men, and of course with the publican. In many places I am welcomed, and then I meet with abandoned women, and I sometimes place them in institutions. I get a grasp at many of the beershops over the lower class of thieves and bad women; I get known, and I am able to do them good.

35. Though these people seem to be poor, generally speaking in these houses, you cannot say that they are bad characters that you find on Sunday evening drinking?—Some of those houses are supported by men, we cannot call them bad, except that you may call them bad for drunkenness; I mean that they are not abandoned; there are low beershops with which I am acquainted where I can meet with men whom I know to be thieves, and bad women frequently go to those beerhouses and ginshops; I am not speaking of the respectable

Mr. J. Weylland. licensed houses, but of the low beerhouses and ginshops; in those I find mixed characters.

23 May 1854. 36. Are the men and women in those houses in Marylebone, persons who would resist any change in the law such as would close the houses at those times; would they allege their poverty, or their necessity to resort to them?—I think not. I presented a petition in favour of closing to 125 publicans and beershop-keepers, chiefly in the parish, 40 of them signed in favour.

37. Has that petition been presented to Parliament?—No; I have presented it to 125 publicans for signature; it has enabled me to get the feeling of the publicans upon the question, and in most instances it has led to a conversation on the matter.

38. Mr. *Gregson.*] Are those 125 houses both licensed houses and beershops?—Yes; there are 10 beershops, and about 30 licensed victuallers; they are not all in Marylebone; perhaps there are 35 in Marylebone. Forty signed; 36 expressed their willingness to sign it, if they were permitted to open for two hours in the middle of the day to supply the public with the necessary articles of consumption. Many of those expressed an opinion that they ought also to open for one or two hours in the evening; 14 said they belonged to the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Association, and they intended to leave the matter entirely with them; 34 were opposed to the petition on private and public grounds. One licensed victualler refused to sign because of the exception in favour of *bonâ fide* travellers and lodgers. He was of opinion that no intoxicating liquor ought to be sold on a day set apart for Divine worship.

39. You say some of the publicans expressed their opinion that their houses ought to be opened for two hours in the middle of the day; do you suppose they meant that they should be open from one to three o'clock?—Yes; the publicans consider their customers, and they say, "Well, here are working men; they want their beer; they want it fresh; let us give them an opportunity of having it, and open the house at one; let it be open to two or three o'clock, and then they could take beer in for the evening." There are a great many who think the houses ought to be open for one or two hours in the evening as well.

40. *Chairman.*] Did you get any information from the publicans with whom you communicated as to the necessity of their customers resorting to their houses beyond the times you have mentioned?—No. Thirty-six publicans utterly refused to sign the petition. There are a great many who exist by Sunday trading; their gain has always been by causing the men to spend their money. They could not afford to lose 15*l.* or 20*l.*, the large houses, and 5*l.* to 15*l.*, the smaller ones.

41. Did you collect from them that they were ready to have the houses closed the greater part of the day, and that it would be no hardship to their customers if the house was closed during those hours?—They believe not.

42. Mr. *Barrow.*] Do you mean that those who signed the petition were prepared to say that it would be no hardship to their customers to have the house entirely closed during the day, and not open during the two hours in the middle of the day?—I am in a position to say that if a man will sign a petition in favour of closing his house all day on Sunday, it is as good as saying that it would be no serious inconvenience. I think, as a body, publicans do consider the requirements of the public.

43. *Chairman.*] You have stated that there was one person who said that he would close his house the whole day?—One person said he thought intoxicating liquors ought not to be sold at all on Sunday.

44. Mr. *Barrow.*] Forty signed the petition for entire closing on the Sunday, and 36 for a partial closing?—Yes; and 14 would give no opinion, and 34 were entirely opposed.

45. Mr. *Brown.*] Would the man who was against any trade on Sunday refuse refreshments to travellers in the shape of beer or spirits on a Sunday?—Yes, he was against even that. It was a strange thing for a publican to say.

46. Mr. *Gregson.*] Have you had any opportunity of ascertaining from the working classes generally their desire as to closing public-houses the whole of the Sunday?—I have conversed with hundreds of working men upon that subject; I have procured, I think, about 600 or 700 signatures of working men to the petition; a few of their wives have signed it; a great many are willing, but there

there are social difficulties in the way of closing all day on Sunday. I will state them to the Committee; there is a class of people who regard the Sabbath simply as a pleasure-day, and nothing better; they say, "We want to go a little way into the country by the railway, a few miles off," and if a man could not have the refreshment he is in the habit of taking, he would consider it a hardship. Then there is a large mass of working men who are good citizens, but they do not regard the Divine obligation of the Sabbath; there are a great many without any religion whatever, and those men say, "We want our beer fresh on the Sunday;" in fact, they would not perhaps care if half the world was drunk, provided they could have a good head to their beer on Sunday. Then again there are cabmen and omnibus men, who are compelled to work. To me, the whole question presents itself in this form: it lies between public morals and public convenience. Public morals demand that the houses should be closed, and public convenience, in some cases, is against it.

47. *Chairman.*] As to its being practicable to close the houses, what is, in your judgment, the preponderance of opinion among the working class, that it would be attended with very great inconvenience, and that they would object to it; or should you say that there is a growing feeling among them that public convenience should be sacrificed to a higher object?—To give a direct answer to the question, I believe the majority of the working men are against it.

48. Against closing the houses the whole of the day?—I mean that there is a class of persons who take that view; of course there is a great mass that takes the other view. We may say that the Christian public are in favour of closing the public-houses on Sunday. I know a great number of Sunday-school teachers who work hard all the week, and voluntarily go to teach on the Sabbath morning; they get in their beer over-night in a bottle, and they are willing for the public good to bear that slight inconvenience.

49. Would you say that those persons are the exceptions, the Sunday-school teachers having higher objects in view, or that any large proportion of the working classes are of that opinion?—A large proportion; I should say, on the other side, there are numbers of men who look to the Sunday for the excitement of pleasure or the excitement of drink.

50. Mr. *Brown.*] You are aware that a great many people are confined all the week in uncomfortable and badly-ventilated rooms. Independently of the persons who are employed as Sunday-school teachers, do not you think it would be desirable to have such places as the Botanical Garden, the Zoological Gardens, or the Crystal Palace open on Sunday to the public, not as a matter of pleasure, but as a matter of medicine?—I can speak from experience. I know a number of working men who are Christians, and who act up to the Divine requirements, and who do not take that kind of pleasure on the Sunday. I will take any 100 working men engaged in the Sunday-schools, smiths or shoemakers, and compare them with an equal number of pleasure-seekers, and I think it would be seen that they are better in their homes, better in their morals, and better citizens than the others.

51. Would it not have the effect if places of rational recreation were open to these people on the Sunday, to draw a great many of them from the public-houses, and induce them to be more with their families?—It appears so at first sight. For four years I watched the question very closely, and in one neighbourhood I was acquainted with, say 300 families. I found that the working classes did not so much require this recreation that is spoken about; they do not want so much places like the Crystal Palace to resort to, as they want the domestic affections brought out. Working men are not sufficiently with their wives and families; they have not the humanizing influences of home. I would make their homes more comfortable, rather than give them the inducement of flying from them on the Sunday.

52. Do not those men frequently, when they go to public gardens and other places, take their wives and children with them; is it not the case in our parks on Sunday that you see them crowded with the working people with their wives and children; if places of recreation were made more accessible to those people, where they could see the works of creation, do not you think it must, even to a Christian, be exceedingly interesting to contemplate the works of nature by going into the country?—We do contemplate those works with pleasure; at the same time it would greatly grieve us to know that 10,000 men

Mr. *J. Weylland.*

23 May 1854.

would doom 500 other men to perpetual toil in the way of omnibus men and railway conductors, and men to look after the museums and other places. We say, give every man his Sunday; if he likes to go into the parks he can do so; but there are very few people of this class to be seen walking in them.

53. Are you aware that the Kew Gardens are open on Sunday?—I am.

54. You are probably aware that the Dublin Gardens are open at 1 *d.* a head, and that the people resort there for healthful exercise; the Botanical Gardens in Liverpool are open, and it is found that they are attended by men with their wives in the humblest station in life; they walk about, examine the plants, look at the works of nature, and go away without doing any mischief whatever?—It must be allowed, that to contemplate the works of nature has an elevating influence upon those persons; I believe all that, but still I think it is better for a man to observe the Divine requirements. I say that the best members of society are those men who always keep to the requirements of the law of God.

55. *Chairman.*] The Honourable Member is trying to impress upon you that these places of recreation are better than the public-house. I presume you agree with him in that respect?—I do.

56. If by merely closing the gin-palace or beerhouse, you could make these men who frequent them moral and domestic, you would do so?—It would only be removing a strong temptation from him.

57. Does it not require some care, in attempting to reform people who are in the habit of resorting to these houses?—Speaking socially, no doubt it is a difficult question; but it is the duty of the Christian Church to bring those men under the obligations of religion.

58. If you were to close public-houses, do you not think it would be expedient to throw open places of innocent recreation to as great an extent as possible?—No, I think not; I think if the people want recreation, they need not go far from their homes; there are the proper Sabbath recreations of reading, and of churches and chapels, which are very much neglected.

59. We are talking of a class of persons who have fallen low, and whom you have been describing, and upon whom I do not think you say you have made much impression; a suggestion has been made, whether it would not be one means of redeeming them to give them places of innocent recreation on the Sunday, if the public-houses are closed?—I would not say so. I am fearful, in speaking in favour of that, of causing other men to work. I know men who have no Sabbath. I wrote a paper for a book, called the "Million-peopled City," on the class of men who have no Sabbath; I mean those who labour in omnibus yards; and a more wretched set of men, or more brutalised, cannot be found. They have no Sabbath; they work every day alike. I am afraid of dooming others to that continual labour, under the name of providing the working classes with rational enjoyment and recreation.

60. Mr. *Gregson.*] The number of those men would only bear a small proportion to those whom you would attract to the places of recreation?—That may be; but we have our parks open. There is the Regent's Park, and let them, if they want exercise, go to that park, or like places; but do not consign men for their sake to eternal toil.

61. Do you find the wives of the working men anxious to have the public-houses closed on Sunday?—Yes.

62. All of them?—Not all, but a very large proportion.

63. Mr. *Brown.*] Are you not aware that the Zoological Gardens, in London, are open on the Sunday, and that the proprietors go there every Sunday, which is a source of rational enjoyment to them; if those gardens were open to the public for a small consideration, might it not redeem a class of people from the public-houses who are now in the habit of resorting to them?—The men not only spend their Sabbath there, but often one day in the week; and I should say, if they can sometimes afford to sit drinking for two days in the week, they can afford one day for necessary recreation in those public gardens and other places of amusement.

64. No doubt those people may refrain from drink altogether; but we must not take people what we wish them to be, but what they are, and wean them from their bad habits by giving rational enjoyment; as we cannot deprive them of enjoyment of some kind or another, is it not more Christian-like to put within their reach those means of enjoyment that will do them good, instead of permitting

mitting them to remain with those that do them harm?—We have that in London, because the parks are open.

65. Mr. *Gregson.*] You mean to say that they might take another opportunity besides Sunday, which they spend in drinking, and not in visiting places of recreation?—Yes; if a drunkard turns a Christian, or comes under some influence which keeps him from drinking, he gains not merely the Sunday, but other days as well, and such a man would have more opportunity to go to places of rational recreation.

66. *Chairman.*] At present, as the law allows those houses to be kept, I presume the servants of those houses are kept to attend upon the customers?—They are.

67. Would it not be better that those people should be in places of recreation, such as have been named, than in such a service as that?—They have a right, like other working men, to their Sabbaths. They complain bitterly of their business; they say that they are very much confined; they are in the midst of influences which are very bad; they have very little leisure; their Sunday afternoon and evening is spent in the bar serving, and a great many have to work all the morning in cleaning the engines and the bar.

68. Have you visited those houses on other days besides Sunday?—Yes.

69. Should you say that there were more persons frequenting them on Sunday evening than on a week-day?—Saturday excepted.

70. Are there as many on Saturday evening as on Sunday evening?—There are more in the latter part, not in the early part; publicans often tell me when I have presented this petition, "Sunday is our best day," or, "Sunday evening is our best evening;" it is so with many of the houses.

71. Mr. *Packe.*] Did you say that there were some keepers of beerhouses who expressed a wish that their houses should be opened two hours in the day, and two hours in the evening of Sunday?—Yes.

72. About how many have expressed that wish?—Thirty-six; they said they thought public necessity required it.

73. Do you understand it to be their desire that their houses should be open for the reception of persons, or to sell beer and liquor out of the house?—To sell it to people who come with jugs and bottles.

74. They wished it to be restricted to the selling of liquors out of the house?—Yes.

75. Not to have the houses open for the reception of people?—Merely to supply the working classes, who need their Sunday beer.

76. *Chairman.*] Would those persons object to have the liquor drunk on the premises at any time on Sunday?—They would not object during the time they were open, I should say, to people taking refreshment at the bar. I should suppose where they have rooms they would not object to a man eating his dinner, if such an accommodation was required.

77. Do you find any large class of persons who make that distinction in the sale of the liquors, whether they are drunk on the premises or not, or merely sold to be taken away?—No, I do not.

78. Would it not make a great difference whether the people were allowed to stand there and drink, or whether they came with jugs and bottles to take the liquor home?—Not much; I know there are circumstances under which a man wants refreshment; he goes in and drinks his pint of beer, or his half-pint; but the great draught on the Sunday would be for the dinner beer of the working classes.

79. In your opinion, looking at it in a moral point of view, is not there a great difference between a man who stops in a house to drink, and a man who goes to buy what he requires for his consumption at home?—Yes.

80. Would you think it an amendment of the law if people were restricted to taking the liquor away, and not allowed to have liquor on the premises?—A decided amendment.

81. I believe there is no such restriction now on any hour on Sunday?—No.

82. When you have observed this drunkenness, either on Sunday or on other days, have you observed more in the beershops than in the licensed victuallers' houses; I presume you know the distinction?—There is a very great distinction necessary to be drawn between licensed victuallers; as I have before stated, there is a respectable class of men who will have no excess in their houses; I find those are generally houses where there is a taproom and a parlour for the convenience of people who need to be seated; I find the abuse exists generally

Mr. *J. Weylland.*

23 May 1854.

in those houses where the liquor is consumed over the bar, both in beershops and public-houses.

83. The distinction which you draw is between the characters of the publicans, and not the circumstances under which they obtain their licences; my question was particularly directed to that; inasmuch as the licensed victuallers get their licences from the magistrates, and have different privileges from the beerhouse-keeper, I wish to know whether you have observed more drunkenness in one class of house than in the other?—I have; there is more abuse on the whole, in a class of beershops, which open perhaps in direct opposition to a certain house which already exists; there is a great facility by which any man can get a licence for a beershop. Perhaps he will go and open a shop where he cannot get a living by the necessary sale of his articles. What must he do? He must draw customers, and he must pander to the vices of a certain class. In our own parish I think there are six or eight beershops to let, and I know whoever goes into those beershops will not get a living; they cannot in the nature of things get a living; if they do, it will be by getting thieves or a very low class of persons to frequent their houses.

84. You have observed that when houses are too numerous for the district, they have to compete actively with each other?—Yes.

85. You have observed those practices in licensed victuallers' houses, though perhaps more frequently in beerhouses?—More frequently in beerhouses; I think the beershops act injuriously upon the licensed houses in that respect; I will mention a case in point. In one part of our parish I know six houses, four licensed houses and two beershops; during the winter the parties have been scarcely meeting their demands; it has not been a good winter with the working classes. The houses are in an old neighbourhood, and there are more houses than are required for the necessities of the neighbourhood. A man who lives just in the midst of those houses has obtained a licence for a beershop; he was a man in business, and he has turned his kitchens into cellars, and his parlours into a beershop.

86. The original houses being chiefly licensed houses?—Yes, except one beershop which was established about three years back. This man cannot get a living, because those who already exist there can scarcely do so; they are respectable men. I have been in that house some five or six times; I find people drink there, and the house is frequented by very young boys and girls of 16 or 17. It is certainly the class to whose vices that man must pander, in order to get a living.

87. Do you know that there are any accommodations in that house which would make you infer that; do you know anything particular in the house?—It is from my observation, and from knowing the circumstances of the publicans. It does so happen that I know two of the publicans very well, and knowing the condition of the people frequenting this house, I form that opinion.

88. Do you believe it is a brothel?—Nothing of that sort.

89. Are there any extraordinary attractions, such as singers or shows?—No. There are other attractions besides music. If I want a certain class to frequent my house, I get two or three of that class to come. If I open a house for vicious characters, I want two or three of known bad character, and they will draw others.

90. What are the particular attractions of this new beershop; as far as I understand, in external appearance it is conducted legitimately as a beershop, and it has good accommodation; the customers appear to be young persons of both sexes; is there anything you can state to show that there is anything illegitimate in that kind of competition?—No, there is no attraction whatever. What I complain of is, that if people come in whom he knows to be bad characters, or a man comes in nearly drunk, the landlord is in such a condition that he must take money from those people.

91. Do you mean that he harbours drunken characters?—Yes.

92. And bad characters?—He must do it, where a respectable licensed victualler would not have them.

93. Lord *D. Stuart.*] If that man were to see a customer come in already in liquor, would he supply him with more drink?—He would.

94. When you find houses of that description which are ill-conducted full of drunken people on Sunday, and the publicans serving customers who are already in liquor with more liquor, do you feel it your duty to represent those cases

cases to the magistrates or to the police?—No, we are not informers. Our mission is altogether opposed to our making known the things which we see; it is only a sense of public duty which leads me to speak so freely upon the subject.

95. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether it is anybody else's duty to inform the magistrates of the manner in which that beerhouse is conducted if there is no breach of the peace or any positive violation of the law going on?—No, I think not. I do not think the police inspect them. If a house has got a very bad character, they might report upon it.

96. It has not fallen within your observation to know whether the police do report such a case as you have described to the Committee to any authorities?—No.

97. Have you any suggestion to make upon that matter from the experience which you have had of these sort of houses?—I feel somewhat diffident in giving my own views; but it has occurred to me that it might be a good thing to place public-houses and beershops under one board of control. I conceive that when a man wants to open a beershop it ought to be decided by some one who has a knowledge similar to my own. I know every house in Marylebone, and I can form a fair estimate as to whether a house ought to be placed in the neighbourhood. I think there ought to be a board of men who are competent to form a decision as to whether that house ought to exist, and also to adjudicate if the laws are broken.

98. You think there ought to be somebody whose duty it should be to inspect and control those houses, considering the nature of the trade which they carry on?—I would rather prevent the evil than I would remedy it. I think you would prevent the evil to a great extent if there was a board who would not grant a licence but to a respectable man. Everything is open to abuse. I find that the landlords of many beerhouses and licensed houses are men of respectable character.

99. You think there ought to be some consideration of the character of the person who is to have a shop for the sale of liquor?—That is one great thing; there are two things to be considered, the character of the man, and whether there is a necessity for a beershop to be there.

100. Mr. *Brown.*] What would the effect be, if you made those men pay a higher sum for their licences, and you were to require two good securities for the proper conduct of the house; those parties becoming securities would have a much better opportunity of knowing the character of the party for whom they became security than it is possible for the magistrates; and at the end of a twelvemonth, if those parties found that the men for whom they became security did not conduct themselves to their satisfaction, they would have a right to withdraw their security; and unless the party could get two other securities in their stead, he must lose his licence?—I have not thought upon the matter, but it strikes me that the suggestion is a good one, and I think it would act well.

101. Have you any reason to suppose, that in any of those beerhouses they sell spirits *sub rosa*?—I have heard they do occasionally; on the Sunday morning, for instance.

102. *Chairman.*] You believe that they do sell beer or spirits on the Sunday morning, during the hours they are prohibited from doing so?—I know they do.

103. That is to say, both houses do?—Very few licensed victuallers. I find more offences against the law on Sunday morning in beershops than in licensed houses; the licensed victualler is afraid of losing his licence.

104. Mr. *Barrow.*] Do you think the apprehension of damage to his house is a greater check upon him than the penalty?—I know that it has a most salutary effect.

105. Mr. *Brown.*] If he paid a higher premium for his licence, and was equally subject to lose, would that have the same effect?—I think so.

106. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything of the circumstances under which publicans conduct their business; how far they are dependent or trading with their own capital or not?—No; that is no business of mine.

107. You cannot tell, therefore, whether the man would pay the penalty himself, or whether a better man would get the licence, supposing he was obliged to give up the house?—I have not sufficient information to enable me to speak upon that subject.

Mr. J. Weylland.

23 May 1854.

108. You know nothing of the circumstances under which licences are granted by the magistrates?—No; very little.

109. You are only giving evidence as to the way in which the trade is conducted?—I have only to do with the moral influence of the houses upon the population.

110. You have no doubt that the law, as at present, is frequently violated with respect to selling liquors on Sunday?—Frequently. In one house, perhaps within a twelvemonth, I saw some men going in, and I went in too; there were 25 or 30 men drinking. There is a side door to many of those beershops.

111. Mr. *Gregson.*] Was that during the hours of Divine Service?—About 11 o'clock in the morning.

112. *Chairman.*] Did you make any observation upon it to the publican?—I told him he was a brave fellow; he could defy the Divine Law, but he must remember that he was breaking the law of his country as well. The man said, "I must meet my demands, and if I do not do a little trade on the Sunday mornings, I could not keep my house open." I have no doubt whatever that there are a great many houses where spirits are illegally sold.

113. Have you known the proprietors of many of these houses persevere in this sort of violation of the law without being interfered with?—I may say Yes; but I confess that I am in a very delicate position; I am a missionary, and not a policeman.

114. Those persons you refer to do not seem to apprehend any interference?—If I was in that man's place, I should consider this: I should say, "Well, if I make so much money every Sunday morning, and at the 30th or 40th Sabbath I am fined 40 *s.*, I can afford to pay; if I do a good trade in this way, the profits are sufficient to afford the risk." I think that is the way they consider it.

115. Do you suppose that if those houses could be brought within the law, as it is now, or effectually closed on the Sunday, the people who resort to them would find any other houses where they could go and get drunk, or tipple in the way they do at present?—I have no doubt they would do so.

116. Do you know any kind of houses in the district which they would go to, and where they do in fact go?—The fact is, that all kinds of houses sell spirits; I know sweetmeat-shops, milk-shops, and private houses to which any working man could go and get liquors; the police have been active with reference to those houses, and they have suppressed, to my knowledge, some five or six of them.

117. Do the police act for the Excise, or under the direction of their own Commissioners?—They summon the parties before the magistrates, and there is a penalty, which if once inflicted, I never know them to return to the offence.

118. Those people are carrying on some other trade?—Yes.

119. Are you aware whether spirits are often sold at coffee-shops?—I do not think they are, to any great extent; I have observed that in one instance only; I may speak of night-houses; they sell a great deal.

120. *Chairman.*] What do you mean by night-houses?—I mean the night coffee-house; houses that are open all night; there are some houses which are open both night and day; some open late in the evening; I know one house in our parish, which opens at 12 at night, and closes at six in the morning.

121. What is the purpose of that?—People are turned out of the gin-palace which is just by, and go in there drunk; by that time the women come off the streets, and need refreshment, and that class of people support the house.

122. Are those people, do you suppose, without regular homes who go into those houses to pass the night there?—I should say they all have homes; I know a great many of the women and men very well, and I know their homes.

123. You visit those people, do not you, in the refuges or other institutions to which they go for the purpose of reform, and get evidence from them of the places which they have resorted to in former times?—My object in going to these places is to do them all the good I can; I have placed perhaps 50 bad women and destitute girls whom I have found in those houses into asylums or refuges. Those women tell me, when I see them in the morning, and when I talk to them before sending them to the institutions, the secrets of the houses; and

and when I go into a night-house I know very well who I have got there, and how to act.

124. You have no doubt that the persons who supply custom to those houses are persons who are turned out of other houses when they are closed?—Many of them. There are some houses in which there are to be seen 30 people perhaps fast asleep; poor men or women, who have no shelter, can, by paying a penny for a cup of coffee, stay at a coffee-shop for hours. I have seen them in the departments six in a box, all sleeping together.

125. Are they vagrants or beggars, or people about the streets?—Something of that sort.

126. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Do you know those persons?—Many of them. I have found people destitute in the streets, and said, "Here is a penny; go into a coffee-shop, get a cup of coffee, and stop there two or three hours."

127. *Chairman.*] Are there not lodging-houses open all night?—There are some lodging-houses; we have none such; there are some few houses where they can get lodgings, but not after a certain hour; before 11 or 12 o'clock they could get a lodging.

128. Would it be a hardship upon those persons whom you have been referring to if night-houses were closed?—Yes; I believe night-houses are a public necessity.

129. Lord *D. Stuart.*] You say there are no lodging-houses in that neighbourhood; does your district extend to the whole of the parish of Marylebone?—The whole of the parish.

130. Not the borough?—Not the borough; merely the parish. I know there is a nightly refuge of which your Lordship is chairman, and I hold tickets frequently for that refuge. When I have seen those people in the winter months I have given the tickets judiciously to those who were really destitute, for the next night.

131. Are you not aware that persons can find a refuge in that institution without a ticket?—No, I generally have tickets; the superintendent and other people supply me; I generally have a supply during the winter.

132. Are you not aware that even without a ticket, after a certain time at night, a poor person can obtain admission?—Unfortunately I have sent people when the place has been full.

133. *Chairman.*] Are there any disorders in those night-houses; any rioting or drunkenness, or revelling; are they ill-conducted?—Some of them are very badly conducted, others are not; people can often get liquors.

134. You have no doubt, from the sort of evidence you have access to, that they do get liquors?—Fifty people have told me that they can get liquors at certain houses. Then again some of them are brothels; there are accommodation-rooms upstairs, where the people pay 2 *s.* or 3 *s.*

135. You have no doubt with respect to the coffee-shops that a great number are used as brothels?—I will not say a great number; there are some houses; there are very few in our parish; in the East of London they are crowded. I was in Wych-street at three o'clock on Sunday morning, and I saw several of those places; there are one or two in the parish of Marylebone.

136. Those night-houses are also necessary for the cabmen; are not they people who are unavoidably out at night?—Just so; men who must work at night require refreshment, and men who are going very early to work. There is a large class of men in London, to whom night is like day, connected with printing establishments, and various places, and those men must have necessary accommodation.

137. You think those places are necessary; but do you not think they require regulation, inasmuch as they are not subject to any now?—I would place them under the control of the police, and forbid their harbouring bad women, or bad characters of any kind. I would give policemen the powers to point out to the keepers of those houses that such men were thieves, or bad women; and if they were found a second or third time harbouring like characters, I would make it a fineable offence.

138. You would place them under some superintendence; you do not mention the police as the fittest people, but you would have them inspected, and subject to some sort of Legislative control?—I would.

139. Mr. *Barrow.*] The places of which you speak are coffee-shops, and not licensed houses for the sale of liquors?—No.

 140. And

Mr. *J. Weylland.*

23 May 1854.

140. And to a certain extent they are used by decent working men, such as men connected with printing establishments?—Yes.

141. From your knowledge of the habits of the working class, would it be sufficient that the liquors supplied during the two hours on Sunday for the purposes of their meals should be carried away entirely from the house; are not there a great number of the working class who have no places to carry their liquors to?—They all have their homes.

142. Is it not the case that many working men have only a room in common with other working men, and that even their sleeping must be in common, in many cases, with two or three others?—Yes, that is the case.

143. If they want a small glass of liquor after their meals, would it not be a much greater accommodation to them to take it at the house, if they chose, than to carry it away?—If two men are living in a room, they have two cupboards for their food, and they might have two bottles for their beer.

144. In the case of men of that sort, who only want a small quantity of liquor after their meals, would there not be an inducement to carry home a larger quantity, if they were obliged to carry it home altogether, than they would take if they were able to drink it on the premises?—It might act so upon some of them.

145. With respect to those publicans who expressed their willingness to have their house open only for two hours in the middle of the day, I think I understood you to say that they felt the necessity of supplying persons who called for liquor to be drunk upon the premises, and not to be carried away?—No, I only said that it would not matter to the publican; it would be a matter of indifference to him whether the beer was drunk on the premises or carried away.

146. As far as you are able to judge, would drunkenness be increased or diminished by men being obliged to carry away their liquor rather than being at liberty to drink the small quantity they require upon the premises?—Diminished; I think many men would prefer taking it home.

147. Although many men would prefer taking it home, is it not the case, from your knowledge of the working classes, that a great many could not conveniently take it home at all?—Many do so now before the houses are closed.

148. Is there any large proportion of the working class who could not carry it home?—I think they could all make it convenient. Working men enjoy their pipe on the Sunday afternoon after dinner; they like to have their beer and smoke their pipe. I am speaking of the sober class, and those men would no doubt find the means of keeping the beer in the room in a bottle.

149. Mr. *Brown.*] Would it not have the effect if the men took the beer home, that they would be withdrawn from the society in the beerhouse, where if they take one glass, they may be induced to take another; if they take it home their families would benefit by a share of the dinner beer; would not taking it home rather do good than harm?—Their wives probably would share it. No public evil would arise from their being allowed to drink a small quantity on the premises; but under the present system a very great evil exists.

150. Mr. *Packe.*] You are not aware that the police have the power of entering houses where persons of notoriously bad character assemble together?—Yes, they have, I know.

151. Am I to understand that there is a want of vigilance on the part of the police?—I do not wish to find fault with a force so effective as the police. I think that scarcely will touch the evil; you want to have a guarantee for the character of the men, and not to give them an inducement to open a house, and then to get the support of that house from bad characters. I think the cause ought to be removed, and then the remedy would not be needed.

152. Mr. *Brown.*] Are you not aware that the police have not the power of entering a beershop unless the master of the house on calling in the policeman will give the person of whom he complains in charge?—I can understand a policeman being placed in a very difficult position, on being called into a taproom, with 20 or 30 drunken people, say navigators or Irish labourers; it would lead to a further breach of the peace; the men sitting there would say, the landlord is master and not you; they might strike the policeman; so that much power would be worse than no power or limited power.

153. You have spoken of coffee-houses; what do you say to temperance hotels?—I believe we have only one in our parish.

154. Do not you think they are made the resort of improper characters, and that temperance is merely a cover for something more, which is not quite so temperate or so good?—That might be the case with any house; I think it is the exception; I have not much knowledge upon that matter. In a house I do know, there is card playing, which I think is an evil; I have seen four or five parties at cards there.

155. *Chairman.*] Do you think that evil would be stopped, if there were more attention paid to the character of the publican?—Yes.

156. Do not you attach a good deal of importance to the character of a publican in the conduct of a public-house?—I think we want men who are above evading the law; any law can be broken by a man who is clever at law breaking. If a man is determined to break the law, he will find some means of doing so; I should say that there are a great number of men who would not break the law; they are respectable men and are above it.

157. You consider drunkenness is a thing which causes crime, and you wish to stop it?—Yes.

158. Do you consider that it would be much checked by the character of the publican?—I think it would; I think so, because I find a large number of publicans who do well by the honourable sale of necessary articles; they have their parlours and taprooms, but I never see people drunk in their houses; they will not have it; and if all publicans were like them a great deal of the abuse would be avoided. As you improve the condition of a publican, and place him in a position in which he can live without the abuse of the article in which he deals, you diminish drunkenness. As things are, there is a class of men who live by making drunkards.

159. Do you think the attractions which you have described are for the purpose of making people drunk, or for the purpose of drawing people to the house to enable the landlords to dispose of the articles in which they deal?—Yes.

160. May not a man have some attraction, such as dancing, or music, or dramatic representation, for the purpose of attracting customers, and yet be a man of very good character?—Yes. It is somewhat difficult, no doubt, but under the circumstances regulations are necessary. I would rather that the sale of an article which is productive of much social and moral misery should be placed under the control of a respectable class of men, than under the control of bad characters.

161. Am I to understand you to say, that the bad character of a publican is mischievous chiefly as encouraging other vices than drunkenness?—Yes.

162. A public-house is a place where intoxicating liquors are sold, and it is by consuming them that people get drunk?—Yes.

163. Therefore you would have those houses better regulated?—Yes.

164. Do you think you would do much to regulate drunkenness by the measures you have suggested?—I think I have suggested putting them under a board of control which might thin them off.

165. Do you think you could reduce the numbers in that way?—I would reduce the number of beershops. I say remove the beershop I have complained of, which is in the midst of other houses, and those houses in the parish which do not answer. I know houses where there have been two or three different people in them in the course of a twelvemonth; those houses ought not to exist; remove them, and you will just do away with that class of beersellers or publicans who live by the abuse of the trade.

166. If the law were administered strictly, those people could not get a living?—They could not.

167. The remedy, therefore, is to administer the law properly?—There are so many difficulties in the administration of the law in public-houses, that if I was a policeman, instead of a missionary, I should not know how to act.

168. You do not think that the law is sufficiently defined?—I do not know the law. I see the abuse unchecked.

169. Has it ever occurred to you to make all the people liable who might be found in a public-house breaking the law?—Yes, I have thought that it would be a necessary thing.

170. For instance, on a Sunday, when men may be drinking spirits in a public-house, at present the publican only is liable for that offence; would you make all his customers equally so?—I would fine them 5 *s.*

171. You would fine every person so breaking the law, as well as the landlord

Mr. *J. Weylland.*

23 May 1854.

lord of the house?—Yes; the men tempt the landlords; they say, "If you will not serve us with liquor, we will not come here to-night." The class of men who support the house are the very men who come to try and induce the landlord to sell them drink at improper times. In some cases the landlord is almost compelled to serve them; and if you make it a fineable offence, and punish the men who hold out the temptation and who drink the liquor, I think you would cut at the root of the evil.

172. Mr. *Packe.*] Would you impose the same penalty upon the buyer as upon the seller?—I would put a heavier penalty upon the seller than upon the buyer; you would have so many buyers.

173. You think there should be a penalty upon the buyer?—Yes.

174. Mr. *Brown.*] With respect to public-houses, beershops, temperance hotels, coffee-houses, tea-gardens, dancing-saloons, and all those places which are open to receive guests, and to give them refreshments of any kind, do not you think it would be desirable that the police should look strictly after them, and have more power over them than they have now?—I think the best thing, as far as removing the evil is concerned, is, that the houses should be closed earlier at night; licensed houses ought not to be permitted to be open all night.

175. And yet you say there is a necessity for some night-houses?—I would have some night-houses, but under good regulations.

176. *Chairman.*] As far as your experience goes, the people who keep public-houses of the most respectable kind would not object to the further restraints which you propose?—I think not; many publicans are really grieved because of the abuse of the trade, and they say stronger things than those who are opposed to the trade altogether.

177. Do you observe that habits of drunkenness are diminishing at all amongst the people?—I have only been appointed 15 months to this work, and it appears to me as if half the people were drunkards, I meet with so many going to no other class of houses.

178. Mr. *Gregson.*] How long have you been a city missionary?—Five years.

179. Have you found, during that time, the moral habits of the people better or worse?—I have seen many families decidedly improved; our great difficulty is that people move from our district; there are only a few families who stay for a term of five years in one neighbourhood, and then we lose sight of them.

180. Are you aware whether you have induced any individuals to give up habits of drunkenness?—There have been instances of that description.

181. One of the witnesses before this Committee has stated that drunkenness was very prevalent on Saturday nights, and it has been suggested that the houses should be closed early on Saturday nights; what is your opinion of that?—My opinion is, that the houses should be closed by ten o'clock, and certainly not later than 11 every night, looking at it socially and morally. Take the crime of wife-beating; men do not beat their wives before ten o'clock at night; a working man goes to the public-house where he has men of his own class to talk with, he calls for his pipe, and sits talking comfortably, till say 10 o'clock; he is then what the publicans call mellow, and if the house closed then he would go home, and take some beer to his wife; if you keep that man till he is getting really drunk, and he keeps on drinking till 12, he is then perhaps turned out of the house, creates a disturbance in the street, or else goes home and beats his wife.

182. You would close the house at an earlier hour on Saturday night?—Yes; I am merely speaking of it as a fact which I have noticed in the police reports, that these offences are committed against the law after 10 o'clock. Upon the question of prostitution, one woman who kept 26 bad houses told me that if all the public-houses were closed early, she should have to close some of her houses. The women I have placed in institutions tell me that their best time is when men are excited with drink; they come out of the houses at 11, 12, or 1 o'clock in the morning, and during those hours they have more command over the men than at other times.

183. Women who have kept brothels have told you this?—Yes.

184. Mr. *Barrow.*] Your remedy would be to have a certain limited number of night-houses, and to close the public-houses generally early in the evening?—Yes; under proper regulations.

185. And

275

Mr. *J. Weylland.*

23 May 1854.

185. And you would propose to give power to some Board to shut up beer-shops which became irregular?—I would.

186. Mr. *Brown.*] If it were practicable, do not you think it would be desirable that the pay-tables of manufacturers should not be at the public-houses?—It is most important; I know the men complain of their pay-table being at public-houses; they say to me at times, "We are told to be at a certain public-house by seven o'clock, and we do not get our wages till half-past 11, and the publican looks black, or the men joke us if we do not drink, and we are obliged to drink. When the wages come, there are 2 *s.* or 3 *s.* to pay over to the landlord, which we cannot afford.

187. *Chairman.*] Is that done in London?—Yes; the men I meet with have spoken to me on that subject.

188. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Is it the common practice in your district to pay men their wages in public-houses?—I can scarcely answer that question; I meet with a great many men who complain about it.

189. When you visit those houses, do you see the men waiting for their wages in the way you have alluded to?—I seldom visit on a Saturday evening. During the last 13 months I have spent perhaps 50 Sunday evenings in public-houses; I keep the Saturday evening to myself, and it is necessary I should do so; it would be useless for me to go to the public-houses on Saturday evening.

190. *Chairman.*] You believe if the public-houses were generally closed earlier there would be a diminution of drunkenness?—There would.

191. You think the people generally get very drunk later than 10 o'clock at night?—Yes.

192. You do not believe that they would begin earlier if you were to close the houses earlier; perhaps you think after they leave their work they would be hardly able to get drunk in that case?—I do not know; I have heard men talk about being tempted to drink a great deal, but it seems to me as if a large proportion of the men I meet with are diseased; I mean that they have drunk in times past to such an excess that they cannot resist the temptation; they have a great physical craving for drink. I have said to many men when I have been in the taprooms, men I knew to be drunkards, "We are going to try and close the houses on Sunday." "Oh, close them altogether, sir," has been the frequent answer.

193. Do you mean those very persons whom you consider almost diseased?—Yes; they feel that the moral power to resist temptation is gone, and they would be glad of any circumstances to remove temptation from them.

194. Do you think it would make any difference if there were any restriction upon drinking upon the premises after a certain hour; if you were to say that no persons should remain in the house to drink after nine or ten o'clock, still leaving the house open till a later hour?—Not much, because the gin-palace system would not be touched by it; all the men would have to do would be to stand for a quarter of an hour; you could not frame a law which would prevent that, and then he would go with his companions over to the next house, where he could stay another quarter of an hour, so that he might pass two or three hours in that way.

195. You consider that the gin-palaces do a great deal of harm, but you do not say that they violate any law in the way in which they pursue their business; it is merely from the fact that they sell over the counter, and have a great number of persons in and out?—I do not know the law, that is my difficulty; there may be a law in force against those parties. I believe it is an offence against the law to harbour bad women. I see in many of the gin-palaces women standing for an hour or two together.

196. The mischief of gin-palaces in your view is, that they are attractive, and offer facilities for people to go in and out after drinking, and that it is more tempting to people to drink there than in the other public-houses?—The men have talked to me upon the subject, and they say, "There is plenty of gas and company to keep us alive;" that is why they prefer the ginshop to the respectable licensed victualler's house.

197. I presume you seldom go into the gin-palaces with the hope of doing any good?—We believe wherever there is an opportunity of talking about the Gospel, good must come; good has resulted, for, in some instances, I have reclaimed some of those persons.

Mr. J. Weylland. 23 May 1854.

198. In a gin-palace, where there are 60 people standing about, comprising men and women of the worst character, you would hardly attempt to do any good?—I am sure to know some of them, because I am well known in the parish, and if I find there are men there over whom I have any influence, I have brought them out with me. I give them tracts on the evils of intemperance, or other evils, and talk to them on the matter before I leave them.

199. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Do you remonstrate with them?—No, it would be foolishness to talk with drunkards; the men I get at in this way are not drunk.

200. You may find some in a gin-palace who have not got drunk; you say that sometimes you bring a man out with you; you must have remonstrated with him, I presume, before you got him to come away with you?—Yes; when they are sober. The object of our mission is this: it has been thought that the missionaries have not a sufficient grasp over these men, and the Committee have appointed me to see whether it is a practicable work to visit public-houses and coffee-shops, in order that we may influence them, and bring them under the power of Christianity.

201. What do you consider would be the effect of amending the law in the manner which you recommend, namely, to close the houses on Sunday evening, with respect to all the classes who now frequent them?—Some part out of the number would go to a place of worship, but the great mass, I think, would stay at home with their families; they would get in a quart of beer and some tobacco, and pipes, and sit at home drinking their beer and smoking, instead of being at the public-house.

202. Then you are distinctly of opinion, that it would diminish drunkenness, and the immorality which flows from it, if you were immediately to close the public-houses on Sunday?—Considerably.

203. Mr. *Packe.*] What is the usual day, in your district, on which the wages are paid?—Saturday.

204. Would it not conduce to morality if Friday were the day for the payment of wages?—Many men think it would. I have conversed with hundreds of men on the subject, and they are of opinion generally, that it would be a good thing to pay them on the Friday. I think they would be glad of it; the danger is, that if the men were paid on Friday, they would not go to work on Saturday.

205. Mr. *Barrow.*] Do you mean that they would be paid on Friday for Saturday's work beforehand?—No.

206. Mr. *Gregson.*] You mean if they were paid on Friday they would not go to work on Saturday, but they might be at the public-houses getting drunk?—Yes.

207. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Do you expect that, by going from place to place, you meet with the same parties who are in the habit of frequenting public-houses, and that you will thereby have a controlling effect upon them?—I expect in time I shall influence a great number; it is a fact, that already they regard me as a friend of theirs, and they are proud to call me such, and over such men I get an influence.

208. Do you find these men go from one house to another, and do you expect, by following them, or meeting them in different houses, that thereby you will have the influence and control over them which their acquaintance with you renders likely?—That is the hope of the City Mission Committee.

209. I think there is another class of people, namely, the parties who have no homes at all; you say that many persons go to private houses and shops, and there get accommodation, who have no homes?—I speak of that class of men, for instance, coming from the country, and who may not get into work at once; that is frequently the case, especially in the summer months; they wander about, and do not understand where the workhouses are. If they get one night's lodging at the workhouses, unless they belong to the parish, they cannot get a second night's lodging; the consequence is, that when the men have slept one night in the workhouse, they are destitute for a night or two afterwards. I believe it is a great convenience to these men having coffee-shops, where they can have a cup of coffee, and sit down and go to sleep for two or three hours afterwards.

281

The Reverend *John Tyrrell Baylee*, called in; and Examined.

210. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a clergyman of the Church of England?—Yes.

211. Are you connected with any society?—With the Lord's Day Observance Society.

212. What is the purpose of that society?—To promote the observance of the Lord's Day in all parts of the country generally wherever our influence can be brought to bear.

213. You are the agent of that society?—I am the clerical secretary of the society, and in that capacity I travel for it, and exert myself in London in every way that conduces to that special and particular object.

214. Have you in that capacity directed your attention to what would be the effect of the public-houses being subjected to further restrictions on Sunday?—To some extent; I have endeavoured to collect some statistics upon the subject; it is also a frequent topic of conversation with me and the clergymen with whom I come in contact in all parts of the country, and has been so for some years past.

215. Will you state any conclusion to which you have arrived upon the subject?—I am convinced that the mode in which public-houses are at present open on the Sunday is one of the greatest means of demoralization amongst us, particularly as affecting the working classes of society. I feel I do not speak too strongly, when I say that I look upon them as the curse of the working class.

216. You think the resorting to them upon that day is an active cause of drunkenness?—Yes. They expend such large sums, abstracted from their families, and contract habits of intoxication; they also meet evil associates, by whom they are drawn into vice and crimes.

217. You speak of the Sunday?—Yes.

218. You consider that day offers a greater opportunity to the working classes to frequent public-houses?—Yes; being what they would call a leisure day, on which they are not at their ordinary labour, and not under any kind of responsibility to their masters, they feel at liberty to indulge in drink.

219. Will you tell the Committee precisely what is your experience which has led you to this conclusion?—If I look at the police returns for the metropolis for the years 1838 to 1844, the proportion of cases taken into custody for drunkenness on the Sunday far exceeds the proportion taken on any other day of the week; there is an increase; that is invariably the case in the various returns I have collected for the purpose of elucidating this fact in other parts of the country.

220. Do you speak of the rural as well as the town districts and the metropolis?—I speak of provincial towns, Manchester, for instance. With regard to the metropolis, I have returns from the year 1838 to 1844; the number of persons taken into custody for drunkenness, in the metropolis, in 1838, was 21,237; and the number of persons taken into custody in the same year, from Saturday night at 12 o'clock to Sunday at 12 o'clock, was 5,765.

221. It was subsequent to the law which shuts the houses from 12 on Saturday to 1 o'clock on Sunday?—I think that law is the 2 & 3 Victoria; that is as affecting the metropolis.

222. Are you correct as to the period when that law passed for closing public-houses from Saturday night to 1 o'clock on Sunday?—The law of general application to the country, was passed in the 11th & 12th Victoria. I am now speaking of the particular clause which operates in the metropolis. The Return I hold in my hand is the Metropolitan Police Return from the year 1838 to 1844.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

Rev. J. T. Baylee.

23 May 1854.

METROPOLITAN POLICE RETURNS from the Year 1838 to 1844.

——	Number taken into Custody for Drunkenness.	Number taken from Twelve on Saturday night to Twelve on Sunday night.
1838	21,237	5,765
1839	21,269	4,896
1840	16,505	3,439
1841	15,006	3,423
1842	12,338	2,976
1843	10,890	2,973
1844	8,321	2,893

One-fourth of the numbers were taken into custody on Sundays.

223. Sir *G. Grey.*] Was not the proportion in 1839 about the same as in 1844?—In the year 1839, we find 4,896 were taken into custody on Sunday.

224. Out of how many?—Out of 21,269.

225. And in 1844, 2,893 out of 8,321?—The Sunday proportion does bear much the same relative position; but we nevertheless see that a larger number is taken into custody on Sundays all the year than on any other day of the week.

226. *Chairman.*] I take for granted the number taken into custody during the whole year includes those taken on Sunday?—Yes. One-seventh of the sum total might be taken for any one day throughout the year, if the proportion were invariable all through the days of the week; but the number taken into custody on the Sundays is much greater than on other days at this rate.

227. You find it to be one-fourth?—You find a larger number taken into custody on the Sunday in each year than one-seventh, and that on the whole number, about one-fourth were taken into custody on the Sundays, showing that there is an increase in the number of offences on Sundays all through the year, and a considerable increase. I hold in my hand a Return which was not extracted by myself personally, but by a clergyman in Manchester, from certain tables prepared by Captain Willis, of the Manchester Police. In a letter to me, he calls my attention to the fact of a diminution in the number of cases of drunkenness or connected with drunkenness since the operation of the Act that closes the public-houses till one o'clock on Sunday.

[*The same was read, as follows:*]

MANCHESTER.

——	Extracts from Tables collected by Captain Willis of the Manchester Police.								Reduced Numbers since 1847–8, when the general Act came into operation for closing Public-houses till One o'clock on Sundays.				
	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	4845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.
Drunk and incapable -	1,188	1,629	1,378	1,617	1,958	2,185	1,565	1,122	808	423	273	132	159
Drunk and creating breach of the peace.	1,460	2,064	2,797	2,581	2,198	2,003	1,256	866	693	503	504	391	370
Sober and creating breach of the peace.	486	687	301	725	455	294	201	169	133	59	85	66	61

228. Is that for a year, or for what period?—I believe for the whole year; it is for the borough of Manchester; it does not include Salford. I have every reason to rely upon the accuracy of my informant. The police will not pronounce a man to be drunk except he really is what we should call beastly drunk, therefore the numbers are not so small as may at first appear. With respect to the first head, "Sober and creating a breach of the peace," I must say I cannot help thinking that the parties denominated "sober" here, were nearly all of them strongly under the influence of drink, although not in that degree of intoxication which would justify the police in saying they were drunk. Now there is another consideration affecting the respectability of the keepers of public-houses themselves; we find that the temptations to offences seem to be greater on the Sunday.

229. What offence do you refer to?—There are more charges brought against them by the police and magistrates for transgressing the law generally on the Sundays throughout the year, in proportion, than on any other day in the week.

230. Is not that because Sunday is the only day on which they can transgress the law in that way; is it not for Sunday trading?—I think not only for trading, but allowing gambling on the premises; for allowing people to be on the premises at times not permitted by the law, and offences of that kind. I find in the borough of Manchester, in the year 1850, the population being 303,358, the number of public-houses being 461, that the number of offences reported against keepers of public-houses on ordinary days was five, on Sundays, 52; the number of beerhouses being 1,298, that the number of offences reported against keepers of beershops in the borough of Manchester was on ordinary days 192, on Sundays 292. I have looked at more recent returns; I think for 1852; and there is precisely the same relative increase of offences with which they are charged on the Sunday, as compared with other days in the week. There is another table with regard to Liverpool, which I should like to deliver in.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

LIVERPOOL.

YEAR.	Numbers taken into Custody for Drunkenness for the Year.	From Twelve on Saturday night till Monday morning.	——
1841-2 (year previous to the Improvement Act coming into operation).	7,602	2,227	29 per cent.
1842-3 - - - - - - -	7,023	1,501	21 per cent.
1843-4 - - - - - - -	7,044	1,542	21 per cent.

Witness.—I felt it my duty, a year or two ago, to write letters to the superintendents of police of some of our principal towns, to ask them what their opinion was of the restrictions that have been placed on the sale of drinks on the Lord's Day, and of further restrictions of the same nature. Some of them did not reply; some few answered, and with the permission of the Committee I shall read two or three of their replies. One is from the superintendent of police of the borough of Birmingham: "In reply to your note, received on the 18th instant, I beg to state that the clearing of the public-houses and beershops till one o'clock on Sundays has had very beneficial effect in this borough; respecting further restrictions, I am not at present in a position to speak upon the subject, waiting to see whether there is to be a free trade in the sale of spirits. I am, &c. *R. A. Stephens*, Chief of Police."

231. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you understand him to mean that the public-houses should be closed all Sunday, and that he thinks it right there should be free trade in beer?—I do not know what he means except it be that he refers to the Committee sitting upon the licensing system. Another letter I have is from Hull:—

Rev. *J. T. Baylee.*

23 May 1854.

"In reply to your letter of the 16th instant relative to the closing of public-houses, beershops, &c. I beg to inform you that, in my opinion, it is a very salutary law, and if no other good would arise from it than this, you do not meet now that number of half drunken, half naked, and disorderly characters as you were in the habit of seeing on Sundays in large towns, at the corner of streets, or close to ginshops. As to the latter part of your letter, as to the further restrictions, and to what extent, I cannot at present express an opinion, but I will turn it over in my mind, and let you know in a short time. Believe me, &c., *A. MacManus*, Chief Constable." However, I have not heard from this gentleman since.

232. When did you obtain those opinions?—In the year 1853. Another letter, dated December 21, 1853, is from the superintendent of police at Derby: —"In reply to your favour, 16th instant, I fear that my experience will hardly warrant an opinion that the morals of the community are much benefited by the partial closing of the public-houses on the Sunday, though I think it probable that the tendency is beneficial. I am inclined to think that the more they are closed on that day the better it is for a great many families, and but for the difficulty there would be in framing a law which would not be easily evaded, I think the entire closing of those houses on the Sunday would be highly beneficial to the community at large. I am, &c., *J. A. Thompson*, Superintendent of Police." There are two other letters; one is from the Liverpool superintendent of police:—"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, inquiring whether, in my opinion, the closing of public-houses and beershops till the afternoon of the Lord's Day has proved a beneficial arrangement, and whether I think further restrictions would be desirable, and to what extent; and to acquaint you in reply that the present arrangement for closing public-houses, &c., has been in existence since 1842, and that I cannot, therefore, speak of the improvement which may have been effected from my own knowledge, but from what I have learnt from the superior officers of the force of the state of the town before the period referred to, I am convinced that a great improvement has been brought about. With respect to further restrictions, any arrangement which would secure a better observance of the Lord's Day, would, in my opinion, be highly desirable. I am, &c. *J. J. Greig*." The next letter is from the superintendent of the Borough Police Office, Bradford: "In reply to yours, I beg to inform you that my residence in Bradford commenced after the passing of the Act for closing public-houses, &c., during a portion of the Lord's Day, came into operation, therefore I cannot speak of its effects here; but a portion of my eleven years' service in the Liverpool Police Force was before the Act came into operation, and truly the change was wonderful, and that it is a most beneficial law there cannot be a question; on the contrary, there is an abundance of proof. For two years I was located in that portion of Liverpool, called Vauxhall-road, a district very similar to Lambeth-cut, and the scenes I there witnessed from three to six o'clock on Sunday mornings I shall never forget. The publicans usually closed from 12 to three, A.M., in order to clear out their drunken company, and to enable them to get their places of business set a little straight for Sunday; those parties retiring from the public-houses at 12, more or less intoxicated, seldom thought of going to bed for the night, but just a little repose and sleep to fit them to commence their intemperate habits again at three o'clock; then followed the most horrid scenes of drunkenness and riot such as no pen can describe; but so soon as the new regulation was put in force the Sunday morning riots and debauchery were at once stopped, and by two o'clock the streets became quiet. From what I have seen here since 1848, I am quite satisfied that the hundreds who now spend the forenoon of the Lord's Day in wandering about the fields and highways, simply because the public-houses are closed against them till half-past 12 o'clock, if they could not have access to them till Monday morning, would be induced to spend a portion of the sacred day in the public worship of God. What is the plea of such persons? They say, 'If I were to go to church in the forenoon, why I must give up going to the alehouse in the afternoon. The beerhouses in this borough are as well conducted as in all large towns, yet here there is a fearful amount of crime and desecration; in some of them, on the Lord's Day evening, there are rooms filled with both sexes, drinking, smoking, and indulging in loose jests and obscenity. I

have

have seen about 50 to 60 of both sexes from 15 to 70 years of age, all mixed up in one room, dressed in the Sunday clothes, in the absence of a fiddler listening with delight to the foolish tales of one or more of the company; a more corrupting influence cannot be imagined. I do not hesitate to say, from my 18 years' experience as a police officer, that the closing entirely of public-houses and beerhouses on the Lord's Day would be productive of the most beneficial effects."

233. *Chairman.*] Have you had any communication with persons in the rural districts upon the subject, who are themselves conversant with the habits of the people frequenting the beershops?—My duties call me frequently into communication with the clergy in the rural districts; I cannot state any particular instance which has come under my notice, but my general impression is, that the clergy in the rural districts complain most strongly of the injurious operation of the Beer Act, from the beerhouses being open on the Sunday.

234. It is the result of your communications, which have been generally with the clergy, that there is a great deal of intemperance caused by the beershops being open on the Sunday?—Yes; and not only the clergy, but it is the prevailing impression of all persons I am in the habit of meeting with, that it is a system most injurious, and needs some better regulation than at present exists.

235. You are not otherwise than alive to the difficulty of closing houses which have been kept open so long on the Sunday?—I do not know that the difficulty would be so great; there is no doubt that the law would be evaded to some extent; at the same time I think the working classes are very much in the condition of children; if a place is open they will go into it, and if you close that place they will go elsewhere; they will keep in their homes, or stay with their families. Although we must admit the law would be evaded, I think the evasion of the law that would take place would be an evil not at all to be compared to the evil of permitting these houses to be open on Sundays.

236. Would it not be considered a great hardship upon the poorer classes to close those houses upon the Sunday, independently of the question of their interest?—I would allow them to be open to lodgers and travellers; I think also the fact of a poor man requiring his beer is a matter which demands consideration in a subject of this kind; the poor man may fairly say, "You gentlemen can have recourse to your cellar; we cannot." I do think, however, that there is not so much strength in that reason as would be supposed at first sight, because to my own knowledge I know the case of a publican in the country who never sold beer on the Sunday, but on the Saturday night he supplied his customers with beer for Sunday, and also with bottles in which to keep the beer. I know a house of a licensed victualler in London, I do not remember his name at this moment, who has a bill in his window, printed and glazed, announcing that he does not sell on Sunday, and that he is prepared to supply his customers with porter and beer on the Saturday night, and bottles into which to put it. I have spoken to some of the working classes, who tell me they are in the habit of adopting that practice themselves. I think closing the houses altogether, except for lodgers and travellers, would not operate so injuriously on the comforts of the working man as is generally supposed.

237. Mr. *Gregson.*] How do you propose to distinguish those who are travellers?—I am aware that it is a subject difficult to legislate upon; I remember there was recently a discussion in the House of Lords as to what constituted "reasonable accommodation" by railway companies, and one of the law officers of the Crown, I think it was the Lord Chancellor, defended the use of the phrase as being that used in reference to innkeepers in the laws affecting that class; it is a difficulty which it was the duty of the laws to solve.

238. Mr. *Barrow.*] Would you call a man who came three or four miles to visit a friend a traveller?—I admit the difficulty at once; I have no hesitation in saying that.

239. Would you class those parties under the title of travellers?—If you were to ask me what I think really justifiable travelling on the Lord's Day, it would be this, travelling for which there was some cause which might be fairly necessary, and to the individual's mind be called a cause of necessity or of mercy; beyond that I think no travelling would be justifiable.

240. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] You would not consider so much the distance which a person came, but the question whether the journey was justifiable?—I should be influenced by the cause, not by the quantity.

Rev. *J. T. Baylee.*

23 May 1854.

241. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Suppose the case of an artisan residing in London, probably in some very crowded part of the metropolis which was miserably ill-drained; supposing that man were to walk out on Sunday afternoon, after having attended Divine worship with his family, up to Hampstead Hill to breathe the fresh air, and supposing that party to require some refreshment on their way, do you think it would be right that they should be prevented from getting a glass of beer?—In considering a question of that kind, we must look beyond the individual case (and no doubt we might put very strong individual cases) to the more important general consideration which is involved in it. I should be sorry to say that a man would be wrong in supplying himself with refreshment under exceptive circumstances; but if you allow that principle generally on the Sunday, you lead to a vast amount of labour on the Sunday, and you inflict a far greater injury on the class to which that man belongs than you endeavour to obviate in his particular instance. You might put a case before me which I could not undertake to decide; I should be sorry to say that a man was wrong in getting refreshment in every case; I should not undertake to be his judge, but I should take a general view of the proceeding.

242. Mr. *Gregson.*] If you did not define the limit in point of distance which a man might travel, what rule would you lay down as a general guide?—I should be affected, as I said, by the cause, in applying the rule to myself.

243. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Would you think it right to shut up the Star and Garter, at Richmond, on Sunday?—Yes, except to lodgers and *bonâ fide* travellers.

244. Mr. *Gregson.*] Would you include travellers from London?—I must not get into the question of distance; I do not propose to lay down a rule for others; I can only speak with reference to my own opinions upon the subject.

245. *Chairman.*] Assuming that it is difficult to get a definition of a traveller, do you think it would be any amendment in the law to prevent people drinking on the premises on the Sunday?—I think it would be an improvement; I should be pleased at any amount of additional restriction which was placed upon the present system.

246. Would you say that the chief evil was caused by people collecting together in the public-houses, and from the contamination that follows?—No doubt they corrupt each other; the permission to assemble in these houses entices a man from the society of his wife, mother, father, or brother, and withdraws him from the chastening influences of domestic life.

247. You think a great deal of mischief would be prevented if people were not allowed to drink on the premises on Sunday?—Yes; I think it is in the evening that the most mischief occurs.

248. You think no inconvenience would follow from that?—I think there would be no inconvenience deserving consideration, and which might not be obviated by care on the part of the person himself.

249. Would you apply that to the inmates of hotels, and to persons *bonâ fide* lodging in places of refreshment?—We would not interfere with such persons; I think the working classes would be really, as a class, rejoiced at the restrictions. Perhaps the Committee would allow me to state my experience upon the subject. I have been attending meetings lately in reference to this particular matter. There was one meeting held at Yarmouth, called by the mayor of that place, in compliance with a very respectable requisition of the inhabitants, to consider about the adoption of a petition to Parliament in favour of closing public-houses and beershops on Sunday, except to lodgers and travellers. We went to the place of meeting, which, I think, was at the Town Hall; the room was crowded with persons, and those who were interested in the success of the meeting felt some little uneasiness at the anticipation of being opposed; we feared that we might be defeated; but, to our great surprise and gratification, the resolutions for the adoption of the petition were carried without a dissentient voice. Another meeting of the same character was held at Stockton-on-Tees, with the mayor of the place in the chair, attended almost exclusively by working men, and in like manner we rather anticipated considerable opposition. The working classes were invited to speak, and a working man seconded the resolution for the adoption of our petition. There was not a single opposing voice in the meeting; therefore my impression is, that the feelings of the working classes are with us to a greater extent than is generally supposed.

supposed. Many of them who are victims to intoxication would be rejoiced to have temptation put out of their way. If their wives and families were appealed to, there is not a woman in England who would not sign the petition in favour of shutting up public-houses on Sunday, because they find it most decidedly opposed to their interest.

250. Have you not found other people who were most decidedly opposed to that change?—I think, in going through society, you meet with a class of persons who, when a question of this nature is proposed, suggest objections and difficulties on behalf of the poor people which are not felt by the poor themselves, I look upon it as mistaken benevolence. In very many cases I think the interests of the poor man and the comforts of the poor man are pleaded, when the poor man would probably say, "Our comforts and our interests are not involved in the question at all; we shall be pleased if you will put an end to the evil," whatever it may be.

251. You think that that consideration is asked for by others, and not by themselves?—I do not mean to say that many of the working classes do not oppose us, but I think the opposite feeling exists to a degree which is not supposed by the upper classes of society.

252. Would you expect any general opposition on the part of the working classes to the change which you are now contemplating?—I said before this present movement in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday was originated, if I had agency at my command, I had no hesitation in saying that I could get two millions of signatures from the working classes in favour of this object, fairly and honestly obtained, and I am still of the same opinion. The signatures hitherto amount to about 290,000, a large proportion of which are the signatures of working men. I still entertain the same opinion, and I think there is a very strong feeling on the subject amongst the working classes. They believe that it is one great cause of their demoralization and degradation, the temptation by which they are in so many instances overcome.

253. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are there not a large number of eating-houses open in the metropolitan district on Sundays?—Yes; many are open in the evening of Sunday, I believe.

254. Do the working classes resort much to them?—I cannot speak to that from personal observation; I should not like to say anything which I do not personally know; I have not visited them on the Sunday evening.

255. Do not you think, that if the public-houses are closed all day on Sunday, there would be considerable risk of beer and spirits being illegally sold in those eating-houses?—Yes.

256. Is it not probable that those houses would be increased in number?—I have no doubt there are evils that would follow, but I think that those evils would be small as bearing upon the general morals of the community when compared with the vast amount of evil which is caused by the opening of public-houses on Sunday.

257. You do not propose to place any additional restrictions upon the eating-houses?—I have not considered that question particularly; but surely, if evil is apprehended in connexion with eating-houses, in case public-houses should be closed on Sundays, additional restrictions upon them would be only just towards keepers of public-houses and beerhouses.

258. What is the nature of the additional restrictions which you think are necessary upon the beerhouses?—I think there ought to be some kind of general board invested with authority, composed of persons holding a more independent position in society than the police, and who could not generally be brought under the influence of the owners of those beershops, and whose specific duty it would be to inquire into the management of all those places, and they should be invested with summary powers of punishing them for breaches of the law.

259. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Would you give a greater latitude to public gardens and other places of rational recreation, if all the public-houses were closed on Sunday?—I have no objection whatever to persons walking in the green fields and green lanes on the Sunday; I think it is a thing which is very right, provided the other duties of the day are observed; I have no objection whatever to that, but I object to labour being involved in such enjoyments, because I conceive it to be contrary to the command of God, and also because I think it would ultimately be most injurious to those very classes whom we are thus anxious to benefit; besides, I do not believe that Crystal Palaces and places of

Rev. J. T. Baylee. that kind have that elevating effect upon a man who is a drunkard, or disposed to be one, which persons generally attribute to them.

23 May 1854.

260. Mr. *Gregson.*] To what labour do you allude?—If you were to open a place of amusement like the Crystal Palace, to which there were trains running, and omnibuses and cabs plying, with hundreds of public-houses open in the immediate neighbourhood (I am supposing that the public-houses continue to be open), you would involve an immense number of the working classes in labour, and you tend to break down the barrier of the sacredness of the Sabbath, which constitutes their only protection against the inroads of avarice.

261. Would not the number engaged in innocent recreation be far more than equal to the number employed if you close the public-houses on Sunday?—I do not think that we are justified in viewing it as a question of comparison. I recently paid a visit to Hampton Court; and in the course of my visit, I made it my special business to ascertain what class of persons visited Hampton Court on the Sundays. I was informed by a man at the railway station that the scenes on Sunday were most painful, and the work and toil devolving upon the railway servants was perfectly fearful, occasioned almost entirely in consequence of this travelling. I was told by a servant at the Hampton Court Palace that scarcely any working men ever went there on the Sunday, and that Monday was the day on which working men went to the Palace. I think you will often find it to be the case that Monday is the working man's holiday, and that the persons who go to such places on Sunday are young men who stand behind counters and persons of that class. Another point I would mention. The working artisan possesses more facilities for getting a holiday than is generally supposed. A working man can very often take a holiday, or get it from his employer, when a clerk in a banking establishment cannot move; therefore they have greater opportunities for enjoying themselves in that way.

262. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Or than a person behind a counter?—Yes; or than a person behind a counter.

263. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do not persons in the condition of clerks go to Hampton Court on Sundays?—They do.

264. They have no opportunity of getting a holiday on Monday?—I should think not.

265. Does the operation of your society extend to Scotland?—We are in communication with our Scotch friends, and whenever they require to organise a society they act distinctly.

266. You are aware of an Act having been passed for the better regulation of public-houses in Scotland?—Yes.

267. Are you aware of a provision in that Act by which no inn can be kept open for the sale of any liquors, "or sell or give out the same on Sunday, except for the accommodation of lodgers and *bonâ fide* travellers," and by which no public-house shall be open "for the sale of any liquors, or sell or give out the same on Sunday"?—I am aware of that provision.

268. Have you any information to give the Committee with regard to the operation of that Act?—I think it only came into operation on Sunday last, if I am not mistaken, for the first time. I was speaking yesterday to a Presbyterian minister from Edinburgh, Mr. Tasker. I asked him with what feeling the operation of the measure was anticipated, and how he thought it would work; he spoke in the most sanguine way of its success, and said the feeling in respect to it was exceedingly good.

269. *Chairman.*] With respect to closing the houses on Sunday?—With respect to closing the houses on Sunday in Scotland.

270. The Scotch Act puts the whole law upon a new footing?—Yes.

271. Did that Presbyterian minister inform you that a great evil had followed from the houses being opened on Sunday, and was that the reason he expected so much advantage from this Act?—Yes; he described the consequences of the houses being open on Sunday; and the fearful effects of intemperance generally.

272. Did he go the length of saying that drinking in Scotland was more on the Sabbath than on other days?—He represented it as something excessive with men, women, and children. He stated three or four instances of persons who kept public-houses, and who were so disgusted and horrified with the excess committed, that they gave up the business altogether, and became members

members of his church. It appears that he refuses membership to persons who sell spirits on the Sunday.

273. You are speaking of a Presbyterian minister?—Yes.

274. Sir *G. Grey.*] Was that in Edinburgh or Glasgow?—I think Mr. Tasker lives in what is called the West Port, in Edinburgh.

275. *Chairman.*] I presume, as far as the better observance of the Lord's Day is concerned, you would be satisfied with such a restriction of public-houses in England as is provided for in Scotland?—Certainly; we should not wish to go further, because we think it would not be consistent with mercy.

276. You do not know at all whether it gives great dissatisfaction among people who are in the habit of resorting to these houses?—I do not know; I should have a contrary impression from what this gentleman said to me; I made an inquiry on the subject, how the people looked forward to it.

277. Anybody might have expected greater resistance in Scotland than in England when that law was passing, might they not?—I do not know that the Scotch are more given to drunkenness than the English.

278. There was actually little resistance offered to the passing of the Scotch Act?—In this case very little.

279. Sir *G. Grey.*] Were you aware that that Act was passing through Parliament at the time it was in progress?—Yes.

280. Were you aware of the provision to which I have called your attention?—Yes, I was perfectly aware of the existence of that Act; and, in fact, that is one reason why we are endeavouring to get a similar Act for England.

281. Mr. *Brown.*] How would you deal with seafaring people, who arrive at all hours of the day and night in Liverpool, and many other ports in the kingdom; the men are obliged to go to the public-houses for their refreshment; they sleep on board their vessels, therefore they cannot be called travellers, yet you must have the public-houses open for them?—Such persons might go to eating-houses; I look upon the selling of strong drinks (I am not a teetotaller, and do not think it is in itself wrong) as being dreadfully abused, and anybody who entertains a benevolent feeling towards his fellow-creatures would go to any extent to get rid of it. Much would depend upon the respectability of the person keeping the house, I think. That is one great point; if you wish to strike at the root of the evil, you must get persons of high character, who would not supply liquors to such an extent as to intoxicate, and then there might be some diminution of the evil.

282. *Chairman.*] You have no doubt that a great many persons are engaged in the trade without much character?—Yes, I am afraid that is the case.

283. Persons of a careless way of life?—They absent themselves from places of worship; they feel, as a class, that they are following a calling which is not altogether satisfactory to their consciences, although it may be defensible.

284. It is not within your experience that the present licensing system secures men of irreproachable character entering the business?—I should think not generally.

285. Mr. *Brown.*] Are you not aware that few of the eating-houses sell beer to their customers?—I am not aware.

286. *Chairman.*] Have you given any general attention to the system of licensing public-houses, or have you merely confined your attention to the effect of those houses?—Merely to the effect on Sundays.

287. You have alluded to some better system; have you matured any plan of your own?—I cannot say that I have.

288. Have you any other suggestion to make?—None other.

Mr. *Timothy Maber* called in; and Examined.

289. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a Publican?—Yes.

290. Where do you conduct your business?—In Islington.

291. Have you been in business for some years?—About 20 years.

292. Have you considered the question of the effect of closing public-houses on Sunday?—I have.

293. Have you considered it with regard to your interest and the interests of those in the trade; do you think it would be extremely injurious?—No, I think it would be quite the reverse.

Mr. *T. Maber.*

23 May 1854.

294. You do not think the trade would have reason to complain?—Certainly not.

295. As it seems the restrictions cause the loss of a certain amount of custom, will you explain to the Committee how you think your interests would be promoted?—I think there have been a better class of men getting into the trade the last few years. Within the last month I took round a petition myself to my neighbours for closing the houses on Sunday. I took round that petition in my own immediate neighbourhood one evening after tea, and between that and 10 o'clock, out of 24 houses at which I called, the landlords of 19 signed that petition in favour of closing the houses entirely on Sunday.

296. I think you have closed your house on Sunday for some time?—I have closed it the last 14 years.

297. Are there any persons in your neighbourhood who have done the same?—My next neighbour, I mean the gentleman who carries on business next to me; my house is No. 12, and his house is No. 19.

298. Mr. *Gregson.*] Where is that?—My house is No. 12, High-street, Islington, and my neighbour's is No. 19.

299. *Chairman.*] Can you state precisely what your motive for closing on Sunday was, and what was the idea of those neighbours of yours who signed the petition in so large a proportion, that public-houses should be legally closed on Sunday?—There is a general feeling that the trade would be much more respectable.

300. You think that the class of publicans would be raised by it?—Yes, certainly. In the next place, I think there would not be the great inconvenience to the public which is generally considered.

301. You think it would raise your own class, and that it would not be inconvenient to the community?—Yes.

302. Sir *G. Grey.*] What were your motives for closing your own house 14 years ago, and for continuing the practice?—A feeling came over me which I cannot describe; I did not like to carry on Sunday trading. One thing struck me; I think that a great deal of the money which is expended in the public-houses on Sunday is really spent in waste.

303. Mr. *Gregson.*] What do you mean by waste?—It is spent, not by people having refreshment to take home to their families, but is really consumed (what we term) over the counter; it is astonishing how little money is expended for the public good on Sunday to what is spent in waste.

304. Sir *G. Grey.*] Before you closed, during the first six years, did you do as much business on Sunday as on other days?—Yes; that was before the Act of Parliament passed for closing the houses up to one o'clock on the Sunday.

305. *Chairman.*] Do you think you did more business on the Sunday than on other days?—About the same; perhaps Saturday would be the best day in the week, Monday the second best, and Sunday would be the third best day.

306. You have no doubt you lost some custom on Sunday by closing your house?—You are sure to lose a portion of it.

307. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you think your profits are diminished, taking the year round?—One cannot help losing a little by it.

308. Mr. *Gregson.*] You have not sustained any great loss probably?—I think not.

309. *Chairman.*] Do you think the profits of publicans would be generally affected if the law required all houses to be closed on Sunday?—I think not; there is a feeling among the respectable class of publicans to close on Sunday.

310. You think it would not actually injure their interests if the law were general, and, in relation to each other, they stood in the same position?—I think not, if a law was passed like that for closing the houses till one o'clock on Sunday.

311. Sir *G. Grey.*] Has there been a general acquiescence in the propriety of that law on the part of the trade?—I think so. A gentleman, within the last two months, gave somewhere about 7,000 *l.* for the good-will of his house; that gentleman went to the house for which he gave 7,000 *l.*, and he has signed a petition to close the house on the Sunday.

312. Mr. *Gregson.*] I presume you have regular customers; what do they say about closing the houses on Sunday?—So far as I am individually concerned, I have never considered them.

313. Have they complained?—Never.

314. Sir *G. Grey.*] Have you customers who buy beer at your public-house on Saturday night, which they take home for consumption for their families on the Sunday?—Yes, bottled beer; others will come and fetch it in a stone bottle for use on the Sunday.

315. You do not think that closing the houses would prevent their getting beer for consumption on Sunday?—I think not, after the first month or so.

316. *Chairman.*] You think that arrangements would be adopted to do what the law required?—I do.

317. There are, I suppose, some houses which entirely depend upon the Sunday custom, or chiefly so?—I do not know any such.

318. If there are, they are not the most respectable in the trade?—No.

319. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you know anything of the houses in the country connected with tea gardens?—My experience only extends to London.

320. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do not persons flock from the east end of London to Islington on Sundays in great numbers?—I imagine they do, by railway and so on.

321. Mr. *Ker Seymer.*] I presume you admit that there would be some small pecuniary sacrifice incurred by closing the public-houses on Sunday?—I have said that there would, sir.

322. You think that that would be more than compensated by the increased comfort and respectability of the trade?—Yes, and the great benefit to the public morals.

323. *Chairman.*] Did you not state that those who are for closing on Sunday are for closing altogether?—Yes.

324. Do they believe it to be more for their interest than keeping the house open for two hours to serve on Sunday?—I only met with one gentleman in a large way of business, who spoke about the two hours.

325. Taking the publicans generally, so far as you know, they would prefer to close the whole of the Sunday to closing with the exception of those two hours?—There are some who would prefer opening the two hours.

326. Keeping the law as it is now, and submitting to the further restriction of closing on the first day of the week?—Yes; it would be a question whether the two hours ought to be from one to two, and then another hour in the evening from eight to nine.

327. Sir *G. Grey.*] You mean that they would prefer to have the two hours distributed in that manner, and not two hours consecutively in the middle of the day?—I am not prepared to answer that question further.

328. *Chairman.*] Do you belong to any association of publicans, or do you from any circumstances know the opinion of the trade generally upon this matter?—Most are in favour of it; what can be a greater proof than getting 19 signatures to the petition out of 24?

329. Sir *G. Grey.*] I understood you to say, that the majority of the publicans in London would prefer having their houses open for two hours in the day to having them entirely closed?—I think they would.

330. Do you think that they would wish to have them open for persons to drink in the house, or merely to sell beer to customers to take away to be consumed at their homes?—They would prefer to do the general trade both indoors and out; they would wish to sell beer for the consumption of their customers at home, and likewise to serve over the counter.

331. *Chairman.*] You are speaking of the licensed victuallers exclusively; you know nothing about the views of the beerhouse-keepers upon this matter?—I do not; I only called upon one, and that one signed.

332. Mr. *Gregson.*] Was he one of the 19?—Yes.

333. Supposing any exception were made in favour of travellers, do you think there would be any difficulty in distinguishing a customer who represented himself to be a traveller from any other customer?—I think there would be a difficulty.

334. You could hardly distinguish a man who said he was a traveller from a man who was really one?—I might, but perhaps my servants might not be able to do so.

335. Sir *G. Grey.*] I suppose public-houses do not receive lodgers, do they?—In some parts of London; in the east of London I imagine they do.

336. Do those, of which you have been speaking, at Islington?—I was really very much surprised at some of those who have tap-rooms and parlours who signed

Mr. *T. Maber.*

23 May 1854.

signed the petition, especially one gentleman, who at the present time holds the principal house for the drovers, but he did sign.

337. Do those drovers lodge in the house; are they houses which receive travellers when they come?—Those drovers would be considered as travellers, of course; a man can soon tell them.

338. Mr. *Brown.*] Travellers have always a portmanteau, or a bag, or something, have they not?—There might be a suspicion about that.

339. Mr. *Ker Seymer.*] Has any person come to your house, which is closed on Sunday, and claimed his legal right to refreshment?—No; I make it a rule, when my bell is rung, to tell the people that we do not serve on Sunday; and as other houses are open on Sunday, if they want refreshment they can go there for it. If it should become law, that would be provided for by people getting their refreshment on Saturday evening.

340. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you put any notice in your window, "This house is closed on Sunday"?—I put in my window, "This house not opened on Sunday," when I first commenced the practice.

341. *Chairman.*] Have you observed any change in the habits of your customers since you have been in business; do you think they drink less than they did formerly?—I fancy they do.

342. Do you think there would be fewer people who would be tenacious of having the public-houses open on Sunday now than there ever were before?—I think much less; there appears to me to be a better feeling existing respecting this matter.

343. Do you know what has caused that change in the habits of the people; is it because they can get access to other places of recreation, whereas before they used to be confined to the alehouse?—Things are altered; people see things in a different light. There is a great deal more comfort in a family when a man takes home his refreshment, and has it with his wife and family. Closing the houses on Sunday morning has had a great deal to do with it.

344. Has it relieved the servants of publicans from labour upon the Sunday morning?—Certainly, to a great extent.

345. Are they able to attend a place of worship?—If they are so disposed.

346. I suppose keeping the houses open on Sunday evening obliges you to keep your servants at home?—Those who do so, of course it must.

347. Have you had the question of closing public-houses on Sunday morning discussed in your neighbourhood?—No; both myself and my neighbour close on the Sunday, and those people who want to deal with us come on Saturday. A near relation of mine has closed his house; I think he is the gentleman to whom Mr. Baylee has been alluding, who serves the people with beer in bottles.

348. You have not had any beershop started near you in consequence of your closing on Sunday?—No.

349. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you find that your business is greater on Saturday night than the business of those who do not close on Sunday?—It would be, if I encouraged that sort of trade. I do not lay myself out for that description of trade.

350. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you find more drinking in excess on Saturday night, from the men getting their wages, than on other nights?—Certainly.

351. Would you recommend the public-houses to be closed earlier on Saturday nights?—As my house is conducted differently from some others, I would rather not give an opinion upon that point.

352. Sir *G. Grey.*] How is your house conducted?—Mine is what is called a quiet house.

353. What time do you close on Saturday?—At half-past eleven o'clock.

354. *Chairman.*] Do you think it would be a hardship upon the publicans if their houses were closed at 11 o'clock every night, instead of their being permitted to be open all night?—It is a very few that act upon that law out of the number.

355. Do you close at half-past 11 every night?—I close much earlier; at half-past 10.

356. You must be aware that there are great numbers of houses that are kept open till half-past 12; do you think it would be any hardship if they were required to be closed at 12 o'clock or 11 o'clock?—I do not think so.

357. You have stated what you think would be their opinion with respect to a matter

293

a matter which affects their interests, namely, closing on Sunday; it has been suggested that they should be closed at an earlier hour every night in the week; do you think it would be injurious to their interests, assuming that to be the law, and generally applied?—I think it would be rather injurious, but no hardship.

358. Mr. *Gregson.*] At what hour are the houses in your neighbourhood generally closed?—I close rather earlier than most; with a few exceptions, about 11 or half-past 11.

359. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you think a poor man would suffer any inconvenience in taking his beer home to his lodgings; is there anything to prevent his doing so?—I should say, certainly not; if we have a great evil to deal with, we must use strong measures.

360. *Chairman.*] Have you any suggestion to make with respect to the system of licensing; are you satisfied with the present system, or would you like it to be amended?—The magistrates I have to do with no man can have a complaint against; but I am sorry to say it is not the case in all districts. In the north part of London the magistrates give great satisfaction; they look thoroughly into the matter, and do the business properly.

361. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do they give licences freely?—Rather.

362. *Chairman.*] In other parts of London there is a different system, you think?—Perhaps a little different, from what I have understood.

363. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you mean that other magistrates grant licences more freely?—The last licensing time, in consequence of the new market, there were some licences granted. I have heard a few complaints lately.

364. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you mean from the licensed victuallers, from the interference with their trade by the number of new licences granted; is that the nature of the complaint?—I think they have considered that the licences have not quite been given to the right parties. One house has been trying for a licence for the last two or three years; another house springs up, and just as it is finished, it gets the licence in preference to the other house.

365. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you think there is any favouritism?—A little that way.

366. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Had the granting of the licence any reference to the character of the parties?—Not the slightest.

367. Do the magistrates make great inquiries upon that point?—In our neighbourhood, very great indeed.

368. Do they ever refuse to renew a licence for a house in your district?—It is a most extraordinary thing, that in our district, for the last two or three years, with a large number of houses, we have had only one isolated complaint; that was for a gentleman opening his house to a traveller, and it happened not to be a traveller. The police interfered, and he was cautioned by the magistrates; it was spoken of on the licensing day.

369. *Chairman.*] Do you suppose that there would be much objection to the opening of the trade, and allowing persons to get licences from the Board of Inland Revenue, subject to certain conditions and restrictions?—I cannot help thinking, when I can stand at my door and throw a stone to no less than 10 or 12 licensed houses, or nearly as many as that, there is any necessity for more licences, or any alteration in that way.

370. Is it merely the requirements of the district which determine the licence being granted now that the magistrates grant licences?—It has been done over a number of years; it was done before my day; it is a rare thing for a licence to be granted in an old neighbourhood; it has happened that this very last licensing day a licence was granted to a house almost immediately opposite mine, within 70 yards.

371. The same 12 houses remaining?—All remaining.

372. Upon what ground was that licence granted?—The other houses lay awkwardly for the County Court, and the Islington magistrates thought proper not to grant a licence for four or five years. A gentleman took it to the sessions; there were about 16 or 18 magistrates on the bench, and a majority of one gave the licence.

373. Sir *G. Grey.*] Supposing the trade were thrown open, and that any party, subject to conditions as to character and respectability, on the payment of a fixed sum for his licence, could obtain a licence, do you suppose that would greatly increase in your district the number of public-houses?—Not so much in my district as in some others; I believe it would be one of the greatest curses that could be inflicted.

Mr. *T. Maber.*

23 May 1854.

374. What would be the prejudicial effect of such a system?—It would be ten times worse than the present beershops are.

375. Do you mean that the number would be so increased?—The beershops would be turned into public-houses; and, in addition to that, others would spring up, and the competition would be still greater than it is now; it would be one of the greatest evils, in my opinion, that you could have.

376. Why would public-houses be more prejudicial to the interest of the public than beershops?—I do not see what law you could bring to bear upon those houses; the publican has his own private feelings, and his character amongst his neighbours, and so on; he has likewise a penalty hanging over his head, and that is why the houses are well conducted.

377. I am assuming that proper precautions would be taken to ascertain that the person to whom the licence was granted was a person of good character?—Circumstances do alter cases; but so many more would start that they would not be able to get a living fairly.

378. *Chairman.*] Is not there a great difficulty in a publican starting as an independent man, with all the stock which is requisite for conducting his business; I am supposing him not to be the mere agent of the brewer?—I am not at all aware that the publicans are the agents of the brewers, to the extent which some persons imagine.

379. According to the evidence which has been given before this Committee, there seems to be a large proportion?—It may be in this way: if a man of good character for industry and perseverance, and so on, has 500 *l.* of his own, he can commence business.

380. That, you would say, would be required for a man to commence business as a publican?—He ought to have more than 500 *l.*

381. If all start fairly, all must have the capital which you have described?—I think I have underrated it.

382. Those persons would run greater risks if they were in greater numbers than the district required?—That circumstance, I imagine, would cause them to be careful how they conducted their business.

383. Is it not the case, that very little capital is required to start a beerhouse?—Yes.

384. The consequence is, you get a low description of persons keeping those houses?—Yes.

385. Could a beerhouse exist if a man with a large stock, which was required for a public-house, could go to the Inland Revenue Office and get a licence?—It requires a great deal more space and capital to commence a wine and spirit establishment than a beerhouse.

386. Could these persons of low description and little capital exist at all, if there was great facility given for procuring a licence for a spirit shop?—I imagine it would work in this way: a great many men would commence other houses; a great portion of the present beershops which are opened are on so small a scale, I mean as regards the size of the premises, that they must close them up, and add the next door to them, and so on.

387. Could this low description of persons exist if the trade were free?—They would exist in the same way as you have two men selling oysters, one man selling oysters as a merchant, the other man selling oysters at a stall.

388. You separate the two businesses into those who sell spirits and the beer-house-keepers who sell beer; but the instant you put them upon the same footing, would not every one engaged in the trade feel obliged to have the same plant and capital to start with?—No.

389. You think there would still be low houses selling beer only?—I think they would all try to sell spirits.

390. Do you think there would be persons of less respectability in the trade than you have now?—Yes; I think they would go to the distillers, and instead of getting in their spirits in the quantities which the licensed victualler does, they would have two or three gallons.

391. If the licences paid a considerable duty, and some regard was had to character, and perhaps sureties required, do not you believe that would have the effect of purchasing up those low houses who can get their licence for a small sum now, without reference to character?—I do not, indeed; I think those houses would be turned into little ginshops, upon a very small scale, and men with

with 20 *l.* or 30 *l.* would start. I do not know how you are to get over the drunkenness and wickedness there would be then.

392. The beershop-keepers can hardly live now without resorting to illicit means of getting customers?—There are two or three classes of beershops.

393. I am alluding to the low class?—I think not; it is a sad life to lead.

394. It is from that they resort to these irregular means of getting custom?—Yes; I do not see how the present licensing system is to be avoided.

395. Mr. *Gregson.*] If you require some conditions as to character, and the payment also of a considerable sum for the licence, would not that secure character as good as we have at present, or rather better?—No.

396. You seem to apprehend, if the trade were thrown open, that you would have an unlimited number; there must be some inducement in the way of profit?—The licensed victualler has a property at stake which makes him a respectable man, and makes him conduct his house properly, and so on.

397. Mr. *Brown.*] Would not that be the case if you compelled them to pay a large sum for the licence, and give bondsmen for the proper conduct of their houses, especially if the magistrates had a summary power of taking the licences away?—My opinion is decidedly against it; I think we have seen the ill effects of the beershops.

398. Mr. *Barrow.*] I understand you to say that you believe the fear of losing the licence has at present a greater effect in keeping the house in good order than the fear of the penalty?—Not the fear of losing the licence; a man jeopardises his licence by three convictions, and before that is the case he can have no respect whatever for his character, and the sooner he is out of our trade the better.

399. Mr. *Brown.*] Supposing on the first conviction the magistrates considered the offence a grave one, and the party had to forfeit the money he had given for his licence and his securities, and was disqualified from carrying on the trade again, would not that have the effect of keeping him in order?—That might be abused in many ways. A man may come into my house with an ill feeling towards me, and may kick up a disturbance which it is utterly impossible for me to avoid; I believe the licensed victuallers refuse numbers of customers during the day. Suppose a man said, "I will be served, or I will not go out," and kicked up a disturbance, and that man is convicted for it. I really was convicted at Union Hall, 15 years ago, for a thing over which I had no more power than that piece of paper. A policeman came by at the very time, and stated what was not correct. The magistrates saw it in the light the policeman did, and I was convicted.

400. *Chairman.*] Would you recommend any fresh powers to be given to the magistrates or the police, to secure the respectability of the public-houses?—I have often had my attention called to the penalty which the publican is fined in case of a breach of the law, and to whether or not the conviction ought not to be a little heavier.

401. It is in the discretion of the magistrate, with rather a large margin?—Yes.

402. There is nothing very certain in the way in which the magistrates administer the law in that respect; it is according to their own views of the offence committed?—Yes; I think there ought to be very heavy penalties if a man serves a customer on Sunday morning, after 12 o'clock on Saturday night.

403. Do not the magistrates take different views of the offences, and do not the offences vary very much?—I think they take one view about the opening on Sunday morning.

404. Do they fix one penalty?—They have only the power to convict for 40 *s.*

405. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do the magistrates ever commit a person to prison instead of exacting a fine?—I have never known them do such a thing.

406. *Chairman.*] Are there cases in which you think a man ought to forfeit his licence?—I have never met with such a case; not the first time, certainly.

407. If the man was an habitual offender, would you have his licence taken from him?—Yes, I certainly would.

408. You believe there is no influence so great upon the publican as the apprehension of losing his licence?—I think that would have the greatest weight upon the publican.

Mr. T. Maber.

23 May 1854.

409. Mr. *Brown.*] If he lost his licence, and lost the money he paid for his licence, and caused his two securities to pay a heavy penalty, would not that have the same effect?—I am speaking of things as at present. If you throw the trade open, you make what is worth 1,000 *l.* not worth anything.

410. You object to throwing the trade open, because it would affect existing interests?—I object to it upon many grounds; the drunkenness that would exist would be beyond anything.

411. Does not the present system cause a monopoly?—I can see no monopoly when the houses are so plentiful.

412. Do not you consider it a monopoly, when the licences are restricted to a certain number of people?—I do not regard it in the ordinary character of a monopoly; I have no doubt, when you walk through London streets, you observe that you can almost throw a stone to 10 houses, as in my neighbourhood.

413. Do not you consider it a monopoly, inasmuch as the present system confines the trade to a particular class, who are so extremely fortunate as to get licences?—The publicans generally in London have had to pay for their licences; generally speaking, the fortunate man is the builder.

414. *Chairman.*] That is because he is the person to get the licence?—Just so.

415. Then he transfers it?—He sells it; the builder does not get the licence until he has built a lot of houses in a neighbourhood.

416. Mr. *Ker Seymer.*] You have stated you fear that, if the trade were thrown open, a great many new houses would spring up; does not that show that the trade is restricted?—I mean that the present beershops would sell spirits; I think they would not be able to get a living.

417. Why should not the trade be left like that of butchers and bakers, to arrange itself, and let each man depend upon the manner in which he carried on his trade upon principles of free competition?—My opinion is, that there are already enough, and I could go through London and point out many houses where the parties are not getting a living.

418. Mr. *Gregson.*] When the number arrived at such a height that men could not get a living, would there be any inducement to other men to enter the trade?—I do not know; I think if you threw the trade open, you would have persons of a low class in it.

419. Mr. *Brown.*] Would it not be an inducement to a respectable man to enter the trade, if he found he would be able to pay the premium, and would not be obliged to carry his business on with advanced capital?—As soon as the trade of licensed victuallers is thrown open, it will be one of the great downfalls of this metropolis; that is my opinion.

420. Mr. *Ker Seymer.*] Is it your desire, instead of throwing the trade open, to reduce the number that already exist?—Yes, in preference to licensing more.

421. Would not your argument almost prove that we ought to go further, and put an end to public-houses altogether?—I am not one of those who think so.

422. Mr. *Gregson.*] Your argument would go to the extinction of all public-houses?—I am speaking in reference to the trade in London.

423. You want to have a limited number?—I am speaking of the evil which would accrue from throwing the trade open.

424. Mr. *Barrow.*] You believe that opening the trade entirely would induce a great number of indifferent characters to enter it who would tempt people to drink?—Certainly.

425. Mr. *Brown.*] It must necessarily exclude a great many keepers of low beershops, who would not have the means of paying for the licence or means of getting security?—Instead of having capital to carry on the trade respectably, they would go to the distillers and get two or three gallons of spirits; we should have men in the trade of the lowest class.

426. Mr. *Gregson.*] If a man pays a considerable amount for his licence, and is to forfeit his licence for bad conduct, does not that afford some security as to character?—What have we seen with the Beer Bill, sir?

427. *Chairman.*] Do you see any objection to the licence being given to the person, and not to the house?—I do not see myself how that could be carried out; houses are transferred frequently from one person to another.

428. That is the practice at present; but would it be injurious generally to the

Mr. T. Maber. 23 May 1854.

the trade, or cause it to be less respectably carried on, if a person could, upon sufficient evidence of his character and his capital, conduct and everything, procure a licence to carry on that trade wherever he chose?—I should certainly exceedingly object to that; a man under that system could get into debt with his brewer and his distiller to the amount of 2,000 *l.* or 3,000 *l.*, and he could just put his licence into his pocket and walk away with it.

429. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you mean to say that brewers are so simple as to trust men to the amount of 2,000 *l.* or 3,000 *l.*?—I do not mean to say they would, to that extent.

430. Mr. *Ker Seymer.*] Does not the same rule apply to any other tradesman, also, who gets credit?—It might; I should be sorry to see it in our trade.

431. Mr. *Gregson.*] If those men were of such a character as you expect, they could not get credit to the extent of 2,000 *l.* or 3,000 *l.*?—Great changes take place in men; a man may appear very respectable in January, and be very different at the end of the year.

432. Mr. *Brown.*] In every pursuit in life men run away occasionally, do not they?—Yes.

433. *Chairman.*] Do you think sufficient attention is paid to the character of the persons to whom the licence is transferred?—Yes. In the districts of St. Mary Islington, Clerkenwell, and St. Luke's, if a man has not been in business before, he has to bring forward friends to speak to his respectability: if he has been in business before, the beadle or the officer of the parish is sent by the magistrates to inquire into that man's character; that is where I am now living. I am not aware that it is carried on in any other district, but in St. Mary's, Islington, that is the case.

434. You are not aware whether there is as much attention given to a man's character who has only the transfer of the licence, as to the character of the man who applies first to have it granted?—If a man has not a good character, the brewers and distillers are not likely to advance him money to put him into business.

435. The person to whom the licence is transferred is not necessarily the mere creature of the brewer?—No.

436. Is it necessarily the magistrate who grants the licence who hears the application for the transfer?—He cannot have a transfer except before the same bench.

Veneris, 26° die Maii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. C. P. Villiers.	Mr. W. Brown.
Sir G. Goodman.	Sir G. Grey.
Sir J. Pakington.	Mr. Barrow.
Mr. Gregson.	Lord Dudley Stuart.
Mr. Packe.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Ker Seymer.	

THE RIGHT HON. C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR

Mr. *Henry Glass* called in; and Examined.

Mr. H. Glass. 26 May 1854.

437. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Licensed Victualler, I believe?—I am.

438. In London?—In the Hackney-road.

439. Do you close your house on Sunday?—I do.

440. How long have you done so?—Ever since I have been there; about six months.

441. Is that the first time you have done so?—Yes.

442. Have you experienced any loss of custom in consequence of closing your house on Sunday?—I am now doing more business than my predecessor.

Mr. *H. Glass.*

16 May 1854.

443. Did you close your house with a view to doing more business?—No; I felt that I was bound to do so on principle; I have acted on principle in the matter all through.

444. Do any of your neighbours close on Sunday?—There is a beerhouse close to me that closes on Sunday.

445. Have you heard whether closing your house on Sunday has put the neighbourhood to any inconvenience?—I hear it generally spoken of in high terms by all my customers; every Saturday I find bottles for them, and that is increasing every Saturday instead of drinking on the premises.

446. You do not charge more in consequence of giving the bottle?—No, I do not; I charge the beer at the same price as if they brought their own jugs.

447. What sized bottles do you supply?—From a quart up to two gallons.

448. Do you know anything of the persons who take their beer away in bottles?—I know them all.

449. Do they belong to the working classes?—They are persons from the neighbourhood, and they comprise a large body of workmen.

450. Have you heard them complain of any inconvenience in getting their beer on Saturday night, for consumption on Sunday?—Not at all; in fact, they admire the principle.

451. They take the bottle of beer home on Saturday night, to consume on the Sunday?—Yes.

452. Have you had any applications from travellers, or persons calling themselves so, to open your house on Sunday?—No, I have not, the locality I am in being so much like London; I am not called upon as I should be if I lived out of town.

453. Do you believe yourself that you could distinguish a man who styled himself a traveller from anybody else?—I think I could.

454. You mean that you have not had applications from travellers, because there are other public-houses to which such persons can go?—Yes, just so.

455. Are you in the habit of serving any other refreshment besides liquor to persons using your house?—Yes.

456. Do people get their dinners at your house?—Yes, and tea occasionally; I am frequently providing dinners for parties, and so on.

457. Your house is closed on Sundays for those purposes as well as drinking, I presume?—Yes; I have let persons in on that day in a case of necessity, such as illness, when they have applied to me for brandy, and so on.

458. At what time are the public-houses most frequented on the Sunday?—I should say at dinner-time, and in the evening.

459. Had you been a publican before you went to Hackney?—Yes, I have been in the trade 25 years.

460. At what hours do you suppose the people principally resort to the public-houses on Sunday?—Between one and two o'clock, and eight and ten o'clock, I should say.

461. Do you think the public-houses are frequented between one and two, because those are the hours when they are first open on the Sunday, and that is the time when people want their beer for dinner?—Yes.

462. What sort of persons come between eight and ten?—Mostly persons who are in the habit of using public-houses.

463. Do they generally drink what they buy on the premises?—Yes.

464. Do they drink to excess at all?—I should say there is more drinking on Sunday than any day in the week, with the exception of from tea-time on Saturday till closing on Saturday night.

465. That you state from your experience as a publican?—Yes.

466. When you speak of tea-time, you mean from five or six o'clock?—Yes.

467. And from that time to the end of the day on Saturday, when you are obliged to close, the drinking is excessive?—Yes.

468. Do you know what description of people they are who go to public-houses from eight to ten o'clock on Sunday, when you say there is so much drinking?—They are a mingled class; I could hardly describe them. We have tradesmen using public-houses, labouring men, and so on. I cannot exactly say.

469. Can

469. Can you tell us whether it is a matter of necessity that they should go to the public-houses at those hours?—I should say it was not a matter of necessity so much as a matter of custom.

470. Have you observed much drunkenness in the streets after 10 o'clock on Sunday night?—I have, a great deal.

471. You have no doubt that drinking to excess takes place in different parts of London, in consequence of the public-houses being open on Sunday?—I have no doubt of it.

472. Do you believe it would be attended with much inconvenience generally if the public-houses were closed after three o'clock for the rest of the day?—I think it would be no inconvenience.

473. Do you think that one or two hours in the course of the day would meet any inconvenience which might possible arise?—I have no doubt it would, but I do not see any inconvenience which could arise at all; I am using the same principle that my customers adopt, consuming the beer which is required for my family on the Sunday, out of a bottle, and I find it exceedingly good.

474. You do not know anything of the public-houses in the neighbourhood of London, to which people go on Sunday, or whether there would be much inconvenience if those houses were closed?—I should say there would not. I think it would tend to moralise the people, and do them more good than injury. I believe it is the general wish of the respectable part of publicans, to have their houses closed on Sunday.

475. Would you extend the principle upon which you close your house, to houses of refreshment where the people get tea, and coffee, and meat?—I would carry out my principle to observe the day strictly.

476. You have stated your opinion, as to the mischief arising from those houses where they sell spirits and intoxicating liquors?—Yes.

477. Have you had any intercourse with your customers, so as to be able to ascertain what the opinion of the working classes generally is, upon the subject of closing public-houses on Sunday?—I have heard it distinctly stated by many customers, particularly women, "I wish all the public-houses were closed on Sunday." I have heard it from men, but it has generally emanated from parties who are desirous to carry on this course; they would feel disposed to it, because it would be checking them in their onward course.

478. Do you think there is a different opinion amongst the working class on the subject? Do you think the more respectable mechanics and working men would consent to have the public-houses closed on a Sunday?—I believe they would.

479. Do you know whether the habitual drunkards, or persons who are in the habit of resorting to public-houses on Sunday evening, would consider their being closed a hardship?—I do not think they would.

480. Can you speak confidently as to this being the opinion amongst many in your own trade?—I do, from the experience I have had in the trade.

481. Where did you keep a public-house before you came to Hackney?—I kept the Acorn, in Great Cambridge-street, in Hackney, not far from this house.

482. Is that a populous part of London?—Yes.

483. How do the people in your district occupy themselves on Sunday now?—They appear to me, in the immediate vicinity in which I live, to walk into Victoria Park.

484. How long has Victoria Park been opened?—Something like four or five years.

485. What place of resort had they before that park was opened?—I cannot say, otherwise than the usual walks that we find in the suburbs of London.

486. Do you think that the people resort less to the public-houses on Sunday, or at particular times on Sunday, since that park has been opened than they did formerly?—That I could not say; I should say it tends to draw them away from the public-houses, decidedly; I think the influence is in that direction, to draw them from the public-houses.

487. As far as your knowledge goes, you would imagine that if some attraction was given in other places, it would have the effect?—I should be inclined to think so.

488. Is the Victoria Park very full on Sunday?—It at times is very full.

489. Is there any attraction besides walking about?—None at all.

Mr. *H. Glass.*

26 May 1854.

490. No evil results from that?—No, I think not; I think generally people would be found in the park principally between church hours; that is, taking from one to three and from five to eight, the park is more thronged then than at any other time.

491. Are any spirits sold in the park, or any liquors?—No.

492. Mr. *Packe.*] What time is the park closed, if it is closed at all?—At nine o'clock or half-past nine, in the summer.

493. *Chairman.*] Have you come to any conclusion yourself as to what would be the general effect of closing public-houses on Sundays upon the working classes and their families?—I think it would be one of the greatest boons that could be given to the working poor.

494. You think resorting to a public-house is a great injury to the families?—I think so, and also to their morals.

495. Can you distinguish between those who go to public-houses and those who do not?—Certainly; there are two classes of working men; there are those who use it properly, and others who use it very improperly; that is where I discriminate between the two.

496. Have you witnessed yourself a great deal of mischief arising from drunkenness amongst the poorer class of people?—I have.

497. In your opinion, the women of the families generally would be glad if the public-houses were closed on Sunday?—I feel satisfied of that from what I have heard them remark.

498. Sir *G. Grey.*] Has your house a large number of customers?—It is not a very extensive trade, but it is considered a very good house.

499. Is it a long-established house?—Yes.

500. Do you own the house, or does it belong to a brewer?—I hold it under a lease.

501. Did you purchase the good-will?—Yes.

502. Before you had the house was it open on Sunday?—It was.

503. And you came to the determination to close it?—Yes.

504. You say you are doing a larger business than your predecessor?—I am.

505. Do you attribute to your closing your house on Sunday its being attractive to a certain class of customers?—No; I attribute it to the business habits of my house in preference to those of the person I took it of, and also in reference to the article I serve.

506. You do not think that closing the house on Sundays draws a more respectable class of customers?—I could do more business if I opened on Sunday, because I believe there are a class of people who are passing by where I live on that day who would come in.

507. How long did you keep the "Acorn"?—Six years.

508. Was that house open on Sunday?—Yes, it was.

509. Is that in the same neighbourhood?—Yes, it is.

510. You have spoken of the number of people who go to the Victoria Park on Sunday evening from five to eight o'clock; I presume that is only in the summer and autumn?—Yes.

511. Do you find that there are many more people frequent public-houses on the Sunday evenings in the winter than in the summer?—Perhaps there are a few more.

512. Do you think the power and the habit of frequenting Victoria Park on the Sunday evening in summer does, in fact, produce a sensible diminution in the number of persons who go to the public-houses on Sunday evening?—I think so.

513. At what time do you close your house on Saturday night?—Five minutes to 12.

514. Do you know what is the general feeling of the publicans in your neighbourhood with regard to closing their houses on the Sunday?—It is decidedly in favour of closing on that day.

515. In favour of a general closing?—Yes.

516. Have any of the publicans followed your example, except the beer-house of which you spoke?—No, they have not.

517. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything of the persons who frequent the beerhouse which would distinguish them from those who go to the public-house?—No, I know nothing of the particular trade which those men do.

518. Would you say, that a lower class of persons frequent the beerhouses than those which would go to a public-house?—I should say it is invariably the case.

519. Are the beerhouses as much frequented on the Sunday as the public-houses?—I should say they are.

520. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is the law generally observed in your neighbourhood as to closing up to one o'clock on Sunday?—I believe it is; I never interested myself in the matter at all.

521. You are not aware of any complaints having been made of an infraction of that law?—I think not.

522. Is that law generally acquiesced in by the publicans?—I think so.

523. *Chairman.*] What is the name of the person in your neighbourhood who keeps the beerhouse, which is closed, like your own house, on the Sunday?—Holland.

524. Sir *G. Grey.*] Does he do it from the same motives which induced you to close your house?—Yes, quite on principle.

525. Mr. *Packe.*] Is not there a larger demand for malt liquor at dinner-time on Sunday than on other days?—The working poor have more money then than on other days; I have known a man go to a public-house on Sunday, and stand at the bar till he had spent the whole amount of his earnings, when the houses were opened on Sunday mornings.

526. With respect to beer to be taken home for dinner, is there not a larger demand on Sunday than on any other day?—I should say there was.

527. Do you think that ale and beer drawn from the cask the day before, and kept in a bottle, is as fresh and good as at the time it is drawn?—I believe it is; I can speak to it myself.

528. Sir *G. Grey.*] If it is properly put into the bottle?—Yes, and properly secured; I take all the pains I can; I wash-leather all the corks to keep the beer from the air, and it keeps very nice indeed.

529. Mr. *Packe.*] I think I understood you to say that you had occasionally sold spirits on the Sunday?—I have done it in case of illness; I would get up in the middle of the night to serve a person in that case.

530. *Chairman.*] Has that frequently happened?—Not very frequently.

531. Have you any reason to suppose that it would be necessary to make an exception in favour of customers of that sort, supposing the law was changed?—I think so.

532. You think some person should have the power of selling spirits if they are required at a time when the house would be closed?—The police have that power now; a customer coming with a policeman can receive admission; I am bound to open the door.

533. Do you mean that a person may obtain admission if he comes, in company with a policeman, during the hours that your house is legally closed? Yes; stating a reason, of course.

534. I suppose that is not a case of very frequent occurrence?—No.

535. *Chairman.*] Is your house independent; that is, not belonging to any brewer or any other person?—I hold a lease of it from Messrs. Hanbury & Co.; I do not know who is the freeholder

536. You know what is meant by "Tied" houses?—I believe there are such things.

537. Yours is not one?—It is not.

538. Do you know any brewers' houses which close on the Sunday?—I do not know that I do.

539. I suppose persons who are interested in selling as much beer as possible would object to close on Sunday?—Yes, by the same interest by which we are impelled through life, that is, self.

540. Are there many houses belonging to brewers in your neighbourhood?—I think not many.

541. Have you formed any opinion as to the present system of licensing public-houses; do you think there has been any advantage gained by the present system, in securing better characters than persons entering the trade formerly?—I should say, in my experience, the present system has worked exceedingly well; I believe we have a more respectable class of men in our trade than I ever recollect in the 25 years I have been in it.

 542. That

Mr. *H. Glass.*

26 May 1854.

542. That is at Hackney?—I have lived in many parts of London; I have lived in Union-street in the Borough.

543. Licences are not often taken away, I believe?—No, I think not.

544. Since when have you seen an improvement in the character of the persons who have obtained licences?—I think during the last 10 years.

545. Is there more vigilance on the part of the police?—Certainly; I must attribute a portion of it to that; at the same time, I believe that we have another class of men, who have higher motives in carrying on their business in a more respectable way, and from the capital invested in them.

546. There has been no change in the law to account for this improvement, has there?—No, I do not know that there has been.

547. You ascribe it to a stricter administration of the law?—Yes, I attribute a portion of it to that, and also to the better moral character of those who have got into the trade.

548. Upon the occasion of granting licences a great number of persons apply, I presume, in your district, as well as in others?—Just so.

549. And a great number are refused?—Yes.

550. Do you know what it is that decides the refusal?—I do not. I can only say, according to my opinion, that it is very judiciously arranged as far as my district is concerned; I am really not much acquainted with the general licensing system at all.

551. Are there fewer licences granted of late years than there used to be?—I should say more in the district in which I live than I ever knew before, decidedly.

552. Mr. *Packe.*] Have you ever any lodgers in your house?—I have had them, but not frequently; mine is not a very large house, therefore I am not able to receive them.

553. If the lodgers were in your house during the Sunday, should you supply them with malt liquor or spirits?—It would be a matter for consideration; I could hardly answer that question; I might, or I might not.

554. *Chairman.*] Do you attach much importance to any apprehension amongst publicans that their licences should not be renewed?—I should say there would be that apprehension, because those individuals have large sums at stake, and therefore they feel interested in their business, the same as a man would in any other business.

555. It is to that circumstance, and the watchfulness of the police, that you attribute the good conduct of the houses?—Yes; the magistrates have been very strict indeed with them.

556. When informations have been laid?—Yes, when informations have been laid.

557. Sir *G. Grey.*] Has that improvement of which you have spoken extended to the beerhouses?—I should think it has to some, but not to all.

558. Take the whole together, do you think they are better conducted than they were 10 years ago?—I should say so; but the authority of the magistrate is less over them than over the public-houses.

559. Do you think drunkenness has diminished during that period?—I can hardly answer that question. I do not know the statistics of drinking, but I should say it has diminished rather, according to the increase of the population.

560. *Chairman.*] You do not mean that the magistrate has not the same authority upon an information being laid against a beerhouse-keeper that he would have upon an information being laid against a publican?—I am not sure.

561. It is open to him to break the law, and if an information is laid against him before a magistrate, he can be punished?—Yes; but I never knew of any one losing his licence.

562. You never knew of a magistrate intimating to the Excise that the licence should not be renewed?—No.

563. Have you ever known an instance of a beerhouse-keeper breaking the law more than twice?—Yes.

564. You do not know that there is a law requiring the magistrate to notify to the Excise that the licence should not be renewed?—No. I have been an eye-witness to the immense amount of evil which has been done by the beer-houses. I have seen children come out of them at 12 o'clock at night, making a disturbance

a disturbance and knocking at the respectable inhabitants' doors; the respectable licensed victuallers would not have allowed them in their houses.

565. At what time is a beerhouse to be closed on an ordinary day?—Twelve o'clock, the same as an ordinary public-house.

566. Are there many public-houses in your neighbourhood who have attractions besides what they deal in, such as concerts?—Some at the back neighbourhood of my house have; there are many about the district where I live; I could not, perhaps, mention their names, but there are several which have other attractions besides eating and drinking.

567. Do you think those attractions are to induce persons to consume more liquors?—Just so.

568. You do not have those attractions at your house?—Nothing of the kind.

569. I suppose those attractions have the effect of inducing people to drink by keeping them on the spot?—I have no doubt of it.

570. Do not those parties take out a licence for that purpose?—Generally; in many instances it is done without a licence.

571. If there is music and dancing they require a licence, do they not?—Yes.

572. The magistrates do not object to granting the two licences to a publican?—They do frequently object to it.

573. On the ground that they should not be united in the same place?—Just so.

574. Are those licences annually renewed?—I believe they are; I cannot speak positively to that.

575. You know that there are several publicans that have those concerts in their houses, and have had for some years?—Yes.

576. Mr. *Brown.*] Are there any public-houses in the neighbourhood of Victoria Park to which the parties who go there for recreation resort to get drink during the times that the law now permits, that is to say, after Divine service in the morning, and after Divine service in the evening?—I should say they do; I am not much acquainted with it, not going that road very frequently on the Sunday.

577. *Chairman.*] I think you have seen nothing but advantage resulting from the opening of Victoria Park?—No.

Mr. *Richard Tewkesbury Chamen,* called in; and Examined.

578. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Licensed Victualler?—Yes.

579. Where do you carry on your business?—Windmill-street, Tottenham Court-road.

580. Is your house closed on the Sunday?—It is.

581. How long has it been since you closed your house on Sunday?—Seven years.

582. Have you held it longer than that time?—I have held it for 12 years now.

583. You were induced to close it on Sunday of your own accord?—Yes, from conscientious motives.

584. You have not suffered in consequence?—No, I believe not at all.

585. Not more than the custom you would have on that day?—I lost a little possibly the first Sunday or two; it was made up after.

586. Is there any inconvenience, you are aware of, either to the community or yourself from your closing your house on Sunday?—Not any to myself; as regards the customers, they never expressed any.

587. Do you find that your customers, knowing that your house is closed, provide themselves with beer on the Saturday for Sunday?—Quite so; all those who were customers before are now.

588. Do they come with bottles?—Yes, on the Saturday night.

589. That is not attended with any evil or inconvenience to themselves, as far as you know?—No; they have always expressed themselves pleased.

590. There is an idea that beer should be drawn shortly before it is drunk?—That is a prevalent opinion, I believe.

591. What ground is there for that opinion?—It is always understood that it

Mr. *R. T. Chamen.* 26 May 1854.

it is bad when put into a bottle; but if it is well corked down, and, as I instruct my customers, to lay the bottle down so as to keep it perfectly air-tight, I believe the beer will drink equally well the following day.

592. Mr. *Brown.*] You mean, to put the bottle on the side?—Yes, or turn the cork down.

593. *Chairman.*] There is nothing in that objection?—No, I do not believe there is.

594. It is supposed to apply to porter particularly, is it not?—Yes; I should say ales as well; it might apply to them.

595. Is the "Windmill" your own house?—Yes; I have a lease of it.

596. You do not hold it immediately from any brewer?—No.

597. You are not bound to take your beer from any particular brewery?—No.

598. Have you anybody in your neighbourhood who close their houses on Sunday as you do?—None in my immediate neighbourhood.

599. Do you know what their opinion is upon the subject?—Personally, I never had an opportunity of knowing. I have heard it remarked that there are some in the neighbourhood who would do so provided it became general.

600. Do they think you are eccentric in closing your house?—They possibly might at the time.

601. Do you speak from having conversed with them upon the subject; can you say really that there would be no great objection on the part of your neighbours in the trade to close on Sunday, if it was general?—I am scarcely known to any in the neighbourhood; those who know me out of my neighbourhood have all expressed a wish that it was general.

602. In fact it would not be any great sacrifice, would it, if it was general?—I believe none.

603. Do you believe there would be less consumption of beer?—Not the least.

604. People would generally supply themselves with beer over night?—Quite so.

605. Mr. *Brown.*] Has not closing the house on Sunday, by giving it a degree of respectability, been the means of getting you more respectable customers?—Yes.

606. Do those parties who were in the habit of using your house on Sunday before it was closed resort to other houses that are open on Sunday?—I cannot say; decidedly, those who were in the habit of coming to take a pot of beer over the counter, of course do resort to other houses.

607. Sir *G. Grey.*] You say that at first your business suffered some diminution from the house being closed on Sunday?—Very trifling indeed; it did a little; I lost the Sunday takings, but on Saturday my takings were better.

608. Do you mean to say that you sell as much additional beer on Saturday night for consumption at home on Sunday as you formerly sold to people who came to drink at your house on Sunday?—My sale of beer is equal to what it was before I closed, taking the week's consumption.

609. Sunday is a great day for consumption, is it not?—It is.

610. You do not mean that the people buy as much now on Saturday night for their consumption on Sunday as they used formerly to drink at the public-house on Sunday?—I imagine I lost what was drunk in the evening and afternoon; part of it would be consumed by parties who took it away for their Sunday meals.

611. You suppose that it is made up by an increase of custom on other days in the week?—Yes.

612. Do you think that would be the case generally if all public-houses were closed on Sunday?—I do; I believe the lower class would be more prudent to save that money and spend it more judiciously during the week.

613. Do you mean that the lower classes would spread the money consumed in beer over the week, and would consume as much beer as they do now?—Yes.

614. So that the publicans would get as much, but it would be differently distributed?—Yes.

615. *Chairman.*] Do you close the whole day, or merely from one to three?—The whole day.

616. If your opinion was asked as to a change to be made in the law, would you

you say that it would be attended with no inconvenience to close the public-houses for the whole day on Sunday?—I believe the public would be ready to submit to any inconvenience which they might fancy would arise. From the first onset, when we were compelled to close on Sunday mornings, it was thought it would be inconvenient; but I am sure the publicans fell into it most properly, and received it as a great boon.

617. The publicans have not complained of that since?—I really think they are all rejoicing.

618. Did you hear what a former witness stated, that from eight to ten o'clock was the time on Sunday night that people resort to the public-house; is that your opinion?—Yes.

619. For the purpose of tippling, not for any necessary purpose?—Yes.

620. If there is drunkenness, it is generally from persons resorting to the public-houses at those hours?—That would be my opinion.

621. Do you think if the houses were open from one to three, and closed for the rest of the day, the neighbourhood could complain?—Decidedly not.

622. Sir *G. Grey.*] When your house was kept open for the five years before you adopted your present plan, did you sell any large quantity of spirits during the Sunday?—My spirit trade was in proportion; I might say my spirit trade has been better than my beer trade; there are certain localities that will command a larger beer trade.

623. Do the people carry away spirits for consumption on Sunday?—They do, if they require it.

624. *Chairman.*] How do you distinguish the districts where spirits are more consumed than beer; it depends upon the class of persons, does not it?—Of course it does.

625. Would you say that the working classes generally are consumers of spirits?—Of beer.

626. Sir *G. Grey.*] What class consume spirits chiefly?—They are the better class; I might say, for instance, the labourers consume more beer; the mechanics take a little spirits as well as beer; then again, in the neighbourhood where the Irish are, you see much more beer drunk.

627. Have you observed any change in the habit of the people with respect to the consumption of spirits; do they generally drink less than they did?—I think generally they do; I am now speaking over a course of years, from my first having been connected with the trade.

628. *Chairman.*] Tottenham Court-road is a very populous part of the town, is it not?—Yes.

629. A great number of working people would live in that neighbourhood?—Yes.

630. You think there is less disposition to consume ardent spirits than there used to be?—Yes.

631. Do you sell wine?—Yes.

632. Do you find more wine consumed than there used to be?—Speaking individually, my consumption in wine has increased.

633. I presume it is sherry and port wine which you sell chiefly?—Yes.

634. Is not it too expensive now for the working class?—I do not believe the working class would take it; they may now and then make use of it; it is the better class of people who now introduce wine, who usually did not do so.

635. There is very little wine sold over the counter?—Very little with me, comparatively speaking.

636. It is sold in some places in glasses over the counter?—Yes.

637. Have you many beerhouses in your neighbourhood?—Yes, many.

638. Do many of them close on a Sunday?—Not any, that I am aware of.

639. Would you distinguish between the mischief of keeping a public-house open on Sunday and a beerhouse; would it be equally beneficial to close them all?—Certainly.

640. Do you think there is as much drunkenness occasioned by beer as by spirits?—Yes; when the inclination is to take something.

641. If the public-house was closed, and the beerhouse was not, on the Sunday, you think there would be as much drunkenness on the Sunday evening—Quite as much.

642. Mr. *Brown.*] Have you formed any opinion whether, if the Botanical

Mr. R. T. Chamen.

26 May 1854.

and Zoological Gardens, and public libraries and parks generally, were open to the workmen on Sunday, it would have any effect in withdrawing them from the beerhouse?—I have not given that my consideration.

643. *Chairman.*] You are prepared to recommend that the public-houses and beerhouses should be closed on Sundays?—I am.

644. What do you think would become of the people who are now in the habit of resorting to those houses between eight and ten at night?—I believe that many of them would go to a place of worship.

645. It would be too late in the evening for that; do you believe that is the transition?—When we are speaking of eight and nine o'clock, possibly it may be earlier hours than that. If the houses were closed, many would go to a place of worship, and would retire to their homes quiet and respectable, whereas now it is not the case.

646. Have you any means of knowing whether any of those persons who go to a public-house on Sunday are in the habit of attending places of worship?—No; it is some years since I have closed my house on Sundays; I should not say they did.

647. Would part of them go?—Some.

648. Do you think it likely that those persons, drinking as they do from habit, would not go to some places other than public-houses to consume spirits, if the public-houses were closed on Sundays?—Possibly; there would be a disposition, no doubt.

649. Do you know whether there are any such houses in London, or in your neighbourhood, where spirits and beer are sold after the hour when the houses must be closed?—I am not personally aware of it; but I have been led to suppose that such is the case.

650. Are they houses of public entertainment, or houses like coffee-shops, or houses specially for the purpose of consuming spirits without paying a licence?—I think you might divide them into two classes; I have heard of it; I cannot bear testimony from personal observation.

651. The presumption is, that there would be greater resort to those places by persons who were shut out from public-houses?—Possibly that might be the case. I look upon the shutting altogether as having a tendency to improve the morals of the people, and thereby the good would work its remedy.

652. Do you think that increased vigilance on the part of either the Excise or the police would prevent that evil of persons going to private houses to drink?—I think that the vigilance of the police is quite equal to everything of the kind; they are well organised.

653. Do you believe that spirits are consumed pretty generally in coffee-houses and other places?—Really I cannot answer the question; I am not aware; it is merely what I have heard.

654. Your opinion of the advantage of closing on Sunday is, that a great number of persons would be led to go home to their families, instead of drinking and idling in the streets?—Quite so; and they would be prepared for their work and labour on Monday, and have money in their pockets, which their families would benefit by during the whole week following.

655. Sir *G. Grey.*] Would it also be an advantage to the publicans and their servants, in giving them an opportunity to attend Divine worship?—There can be no two opinions upon that; it is evident.

656. *Chairman.*] Having the public-houses open on Sunday is a temptation offered to people to induce them to drink?—Too much so.

657. Drunkenness would diminish if that temptation was placed out of their way, you think?—Yes.

658. You do not refer to any experience anywhere of the exertions of the temperance people?—None whatever.

659. Mr. *Brown.*] Are you of opinion, that the society they meet at beer-houses on Sunday evening induces them to remain longer and drink more, and weans them from their own little cottage or home?—There are a large class of people who attend those houses who meet with friends, and are induced to take more. Sunday is a time when they have money in their pockets; we know what the lower class is; they have not sufficient control to withstand their own passions, and thereby the money is spent which they might reserve for their families.

660. *Chairman.*] Have you any means of knowing what the opinion of the common

common people would be of closing the public-houses on Sunday?—I simply judge from the remarks made to me, on the advantage there would be.

661. By habitual drunkards, or men in the habit of frequenting public-houses?—I cannot go so far as to say the habitual drunkard.

662. Have you heard people express such a wish?—Yes.

663. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Do they wish them to be closed entirely on Sunday from morning to night?—I have had it expressed on many occasions.

664. Are there not a good many people in the metropolis who require refreshment in the course of Sunday, somehow or other?—I do not doubt it.

665. Such parties as travel by railway, steam-boats and omnibuses; short stages; how do you propose that their wants should be supplied?—I am not prepared to propose that; I merely speak of the number of benefits that would arise from closing; that is a subject that would require consideration to be prepared to speak upon.

666. You admit that considerable inconvenience would be experienced by a numerous class, although a benefit on the other hand might be derived?—I think to a great extent that is imaginary.

667. *Chairman.*] Do you think people would adapt themselves to the circumstances, if they knew the public-houses were closed?—No question of it.

668. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Men travelling by railway, perhaps from necessity, on arriving in London would feel the want of refreshment; would that be an imaginary want?—There are those who travel for pleasure, and those who travel from necessity. I believe it would be a great good to prevent those who travel for the sake of travelling on Sunday from doing so.

669. In the case of men compelled to travel, what would you do?—Then of course there is a necessity, and provision must be made for a necessity.

670. Mr. *Packe.*] You admit there should be some exception for people who travel?—Certainly.

671. You have told the Committee that you recommend your customers to turn their bottles up upon their heads when you furnished beer on Saturday evenings?—Merely for the purpose of keeping it air-tight.

672. You are a judge of beer; in your opinion is it quite as good in that way as when it is fresh drawn from the cask?—Possibly not quite so fresh; I should be sorry to say I thought it would, but it would be better beer than ever we get in the country places at any of their breweries.

673. Have you heard any customers complain that it is not so good as it is when drawn fresh?—Never. I do not mean to say there are not times when our beer is not so good as others.

674. You live in a populous part of London?—Yes; but, as remarked before, not in one of the largest beer-trade neighbourhoods.

675. Have you ever any lodgers staying at your house?—None at all.

676. Have you any demand for spirits for medical purposes?—I have not found any; I do not mean to say there might not have been such a case.

677. From illness?—Such a case might have occurred once a year.

678. Have you any demand, since you closed your house, for spirits for medical purposes on Sunday?—I do not know that I could recollect one.

679. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you think any great evil would arise if the public-houses were permitted to be open from one to three o'clock, so that parties might send for beer for their dinner, and that travellers might get refreshment during those hours without inconvenience?—I do not know that any particular evil would originate; of course it would be a concession, which would be beneficial even as it is now. I decidedly recommend their closing altogether.

680. *Chairman.*] What o'clock do you close your house at night?—Eleven.

681. You need not close it till 12 o'clock?—No.

682. Do you see any objection to its being compulsory upon all publicans that their houses should be closed at 12?—I think it would be beneficial.

683. You know houses can be open all night; evidence has been given of there being night-houses, or houses that are open all night, and that they are merely to meet the wants of a class of persons that you must consider; do you know anything of that sort of persons?—No.

684. You do not think any inconvenience would result from closing the public-houses, like beer-houses, at 12 o'clock?—None.

Mr. *R. T. Chamen.*

26 May 1854.

685. Have you observed with respect to drunkenness, at what hour it takes place in the public-houses at night?—Generally late hours.

686. After 10 o'clock?—Yes.

687. Whenever there is drinking to excess, it is late at night?—Yes.

688. Do you think that would diminish the amount of drunkenness in the town, if the houses could be closed earlier?—I do.

689. Do you think it would be possible to close them before 12 without great inconvenience?—The requirements of London are great; I scarcely know how to offer an opinion upon that question. As regards my own immediate neighbourhood, there would be no inconvenience; there are certain localities where it might be considered a very great inconvenience.

690. Are there places where it is necessary to keep open the houses till the very latest hour?—Yes; at all events, as late as 12, I should say.

691. Do you think the difficulty could be met in any way by giving the privilege to certain houses to be open, and closing the rest?—I really could not answer that question.

692. Do you know at all what the publicans would feel about that, whether they would object to the houses being closed earlier on the week-day; at 12 o'clock, for instance?—I have no reason to suppose they would object to it; on the other hand, I do not know that I have made it the subject of conversation.

693. Mr. *Packe.*] Supposing you had any lodgers in your house, would you think it right that they should not have any malt liquors or any spirits on the Sunday?—I should feel, if I had a lodger, and if I kept a house under such circumstances, that I was in duty bound to provide them.

694. There are a number of graziers who attend Smithfield early on Monday morning; if they were in a house closed on Sunday, must not they be supplied with the refreshment which they required?—In that locality, perhaps, such a provision would be necessary.

695. *Chairman.*] Have you many customers among the working classes who come with those bottles on the Saturday night?—Mechanics.

696. You know that they are so when they come on Saturday with a bottle to provide beer for Sunday?—Yes.

697. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Your house is entirely closed on Sunday; you do not sell anything to be taken away on that day?—Nothing whatever.

Mr. *George Haddock*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *G. Haddock.*

698. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you live?—At Norwood.

699. What is your business?—A Carpenter and Joiner.

700. Have you ever considered the subject on which you have just heard evidence given, respecting the closing of public houses on Sunday?—Yes.

701. Are you in the habit of frequenting a public-house on Sunday?—I am not.

702. Have you experienced any inconvenience from not doing so?—I never use a public-house at all; I have my beer in from the brewer.

703. You do consume beer?—I do.

704. Have you ever considered whether it would be an inconvenience to your neighbours, or to persons in your own class of life, if public-houses were closed on the Sunday?—I consider it would be a benefit to have them closed on the Sunday altogether.

705. Do you speak of the moral advantage to the people from not consuming spirituous liquors on Sunday?—Yes.

706. Have you ever considered whether such a plan would be practicable, or whether it would put the people to great inconvenience?—I think it would put them to no inconvenience at all.

707. What class are you speaking of which would be put to no inconvenience by having the public-houses closed on Sunday?—I mean the respectable labouring class in general, such as mechanics.

708. How would they meet the inconvenience of not having a public-house open on Sunday?—They would provide themselves with what they wanted to consume on Saturday, the same as they would provide themselves with meat or bread, or any other commodities which they want in the house.

709. You think every orderly man would know what he wants to consume

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on the Sunday, whether beer, or spirits, or meat, and provide himself accordingly?—Most undoubtedly.

710. In your opinion, it would be the more irregular portion of the working class, who perhaps drink to excess from being tempted at the time, who would complain of the public-house being closed?—Yes. I think if the houses were closed on the Sunday, it would be the means of stopping very much drunkenness.

711. Are there not a great number of very respectable people who go to a public-house on Sunday, between one and three o'clock?—There are a great number of people who go to fetch beer for their dinners.

712. There is no evil arising out of that, is there?—No, I never heard of any evil at all from that.

713. You have no objection to the house being opened so far on the Sunday?—I should rather have it closed altogether. As to its being opened for two hours, I do not see much objection; but it should only be opened to allow persons to fetch the beer for their dinner.

714. Do you think the excessive drinking takes place in the evening?—Yes, it does.

715. You would object even during those two hours, from one to three, to liquor being drunk on the premises?—Decidedly I would.

716. You think that is where the mischief is done?—To a certain extent.

717. A great number of persons congregate together and contaminate each other?—Yes, they stand and drink at the bar.

718. After three o'clock you would close the public-houses altogether, as not being necessary to be open?—After three o'clock I would close the houses altogether, excepting in cases where illness took place, and any spirits were required in the way of medicine.

719. Would you leave power in some person to procure spirits, when they were required for that purpose?—Yes, to that extent.

720. Do you belong to any temperance society?—No.

721. You have had an opportunity of observing the habits of the working class, and you have come to the conclusion that there is a great deal of drunkenness on Sunday?—Yes, more than at any other time on Sunday and Saturday night.

722. At what hour do you consider it takes place?—I consider there is most drunkenness in general from six to ten o'clock on Sunday night.

723. Is there much population at Norwood?—The population is more now the Crystal Palace is in progress than it was when I first went there.

724. Are there many beer-houses?—There have been five licensed within the last two years, and eight licensed spirit-houses within this last two years built and licensed.

725. How long have you lived at Norwood?—Three years.

726. Were you a resident there before the Crystal Palace was thought of?—Yes, about twelve months.

727. Do the people resort to the public-houses at night in a place like Norwood?—They do.

728. As late as 11 o'clock on Sunday night?—Yes, and as late as 12 o'clock.

729. Have you seen the people come out of the public-houses drunk on Sunday night?—A great deal too much, I am sorry to say.

730. Have you seen the consequences of that upon the wives and families of those men?—Yes.

731. Are you acquainted with the feelings of the working men upon the subject of closing public-houses on Sunday?—The general feeling is with mechanics, that they wish the public-houses were closed altogether; it is an inducement to draw them from their families, and to spend their money.

732. Are you speaking of the portion who resort to Norwood?—Yes; to see the Crystal Palace.

733. What do you think would be the opinion of the wives and women of their families?—The general opinion would be, to close them altogether on the Sunday.

734. You think it is a recognised opinion among working men, that it is on Sunday night, or Sunday, when this excessive drinking takes place?—Yes; my opinion is, that the men are ashamed to go out on Sunday; as soon as it gets to six or eight o'clock, they will repair to the public-house to get out of the way;

Mr. G. Haddock. 26 May 1854.

they are not provided with any decent clothes to go to a place of worship, so that they get into the public-house out of the way.

735. That depends a little upon the state of trade, does not it; if there is employment they can have good clothes like other working people?—Yes, provided they take care of what they earn.

736. Are you referring to agricultural labourers?—To mechanics, agricultural labourers, and labourers in general.

737. Is there distress occasioned in the first instance by drinking and irregularity?—Yes.

738. Then they are without decent clothing to go out?—Yes, that is the cause of it.

739. Then they resort to the public-house for the excitement of drink, and for the company of the persons whom they meet there?—Yes, and to get out of the way.

740. Do you think that those persons who have the means of going out on Sunday to see the Crystal Palace, resort less to the public-house?—I cannot say as to any other vicinity but there; but there I know they frequent the public-houses more by coming out on the Sunday.

741. Have you had a great accession to the population of Norwood, since the Crystal Palace has been building?—Yes, very much so.

742. Have great numbers of people come down from London on Sunday?—From 20,000 to 30,000 sometimes on a Sunday, if it is a fine day, and sometimes more.

743. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Do they go back early in the day?—They go back at all hours from six o'clock to 11; as late as they can get back by the trains.

744. Mr. *Brown.*] You have told the Committee a great deal about drinking on Sunday, is not that greatly increased by the pay-tables of the labourers being at public-houses?—Yes.

745. Can you suggest any means of preventing that?—The only thing which would prevent it would be, if all the masters were to pay their men on the Friday; that would do away with a great deal of drunkenness on Saturday night.

746. If they were paid at the public-house on Friday, would it not have the same effect as on Saturday?—I do not think many are paid at public-houses now; I think it is done away with to a great extent.

747. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are you a master carpenter, employing others?—No.

748. Lord *D. Stuart.*] When is it usual to pay the wages of the men?—At the workshops; very few people pay at public-houses.

749. Sir *J. Pakington.*] I understand your recommendation to be, that no public-house shall be open after three o'clock on Sunday?—Yes.

750. Do you intend to convey an opinion that you think it is desirable that they should be open till three o'clock, except during the hours of Divine worship?—No, I do not think they would require to be open more than two hours.

751. Speaking of the neighbourhood of Norwood, supposing the public-houses were closed altogether on Sunday, do you think the labouring classes would have any difficulty in providing themselves on Saturday night with such beer as they required for consumption on Sunday?—No.

752. Do you ever go to the public-house?—Yes.

753. Do you consume malt liquor?—Yes.

754. What is your own practice with respect to providing malt liquors?—I get it from the brewer on the Thursday or Friday, when the brewer calls.

755. You buy, of course, a sufficient quantity to last the week?—I buy my beer a cask at a time.

756. How long does a cask last you?—Three weeks.

757. Perhaps persons in a less comfortable condition than yourself could not afford to obtain their beer in that way?—I do not see why they should not; if they can afford to buy a pot of beer at the public-house, they can afford to have it in three gallons at a time.

758. Do you get it cheaper in that way?—Decidedly.

759. In the case of artisans, to whom it might not be convenient to buy malt liquor in a cask, would they have any difficulty in buying on Saturday night enough

enough to consume on Sunday?—No; provided they have a vessel large enough to suit them for the day.

760. You have stated that there was a good deal of drunkenness on Sunday night in the public-houses at Norwood?—There is a great deal.

761. Will you state amongst what class of persons you chiefly observe that drunkenness on Sunday night?—The chief class of persons I observe the most, is the working class round about the vicinity of the Crystal Palace.

762. Are they chiefly men who have families and homes, where they might pass their time if they chose?—I think they are, but I cannot answer that question.

763. *Chairman.*] Are those persons brought down in connexion with the building?—A great number are brought down to see this building during the Sunday. They stop on Sunday night at the public-houses, where they get intoxicated, and make a great disturbance during the evening.

764. Have many persons been brought into the vicinity recently to assist in the work at the Crystal Palace?—Yes; that is the class of people who are living in the neighbourhood.

765. Sir *J. Pakington.*] I presume they have lodgings?—Yes.

766. Have they any lodgings where their time could be passed comfortably on Sunday?—I do not see why they should not.

767. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do many of the workmen who are employed in the Crystal Palace lodge in the public-houses round Norwood?—That question I am unable to answer. I do not frequent the public-houses, therefore I do not see them.

768. Are you employed yourself at the Crystal Palace?—No.

769. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Closing the public-houses on Sunday would not affect the workmen who were permanent lodgers in those houses?—No.

770. *Chairman.*] What is your opinion of the effect of closing the public-houses on Sunday upon those persons who go regularly to a public-house, and are in the habit of drinking to excess?—It would be the means of keeping them at their own homes, by their own firesides, or they would go to a place of worship; they would have plenty of places of recreation to go to without going to the public-house.

771. You think, if the temptation were removed, they would find more innocent objects of attraction?—Yes.

772. Do you assume that they are people of confirmed bad habits?—Yes, very bad habits.

773. Do you think they could get rid of them immediately upon closing the public-houses altogether on the Sunday?—Yes.

774. Do not you think they would drink at their own houses?—I think that would be stopped by means of the wife; she would persuade her husband not to fetch in enough for that purpose.

775. About what hour is it that these people you have referred to in the neighbourhood of Norwood get drunk?—From 9 to 11 o'clock, and from 8 to 12 o'clock, and so on.

776. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Have you lived long at Norwood?—Three years.

777. During that time, should you say that these evils have been increasing rather than otherwise?—Yes, a wonderful deal.

778. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is that owing to the Crystal Palace and the number of people round it, which has increased the population very much?—To a great extent.

779. Do you think that intemperance has increased more than the increase of the population?—Yes.

780. You think the habits of the people have become worse?—Yes.

781. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Are you able to say whether there was any increase in those bad habits of Sunday drinking, before the building of the Crystal Palace commenced?—Before that time it was a quiet neighbourhood.

782. Are there many beerhouses now as compared with the number of public-houses?—Five.

783. Sir *G. Grey.*] What district do you speak of which comprises those five beerhouses?—Within a mile of the Crystal Palace itself; those five beerhouses have been licensed within the last two years.

784. *Chairman.*] You said there were eight spirit-houses?—Yes.

Mr. G. Haddock.

26 May 1854.

785. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Are you speaking of the district which is comprised within the limits of the parish, or are you making a conjecture of your own when you speak of a circle of about a mile?—Yes; I mean a circle of about a mile.

786. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Were there no beerhouses before the time you have mentioned?—There were only two beerhouses there before the three licensed houses.

787. There are now seven?—Those two that were there three years ago are now licensed houses; there are five recent licensed beerhouses, and eight recent licenced spirit-houses.

788. Two of the beerhouses which were there before you came took out licenses?—Yes.

789. Then there are ten licensed houses?—I think there are, within a mile of the Crystal Palace.

790. Mr. *Packe.*] Am I to understand that a large number of persons go to the Crystal Palace from the metropolis?—Yes.

791. More on Sunday than any other day?—Yes.

792. Do not those people want refreshment when they come down, and would it not be an inconvenience to them that they should not have an opportunity of getting refreshment on the Sunday?—The greater proportion come after dinner, from three to five o'clock.

793. How long do they remain usually?—From three to ten, various hours; they begin to disperse about nine o'clock.

794. Do not they want refreshment?—I suppose they do; I do not know anything about their refreshment.

795. *Chairman.*] The mischief is done by their drinking beer and spirits; if the beer and spirits were not drunk, or were not sold, they might visit the Crystal Palace without mischief?—Yes; every public-house in the neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace is filled to excess on Sunday night.

796. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Are there any coffee-shops in that district?—Yes, there are two or three within a mile of the Crystal Palace.

797. Do you think, if all the beer-houses were shut up, that the reasonable wants of visitors might not be supplied by additional coffee-shops being opened?—Yes.

798. Mr. *Packe.*] Is not one o'clock the usual hour of dinner with the working classes?—From twelve to one.

799. You say that you think there would be no inconvenience in the public-houses being closed, except from one to three?—I do not see any inconvenience.

800. If the people dine between twelve and one, do not they want some other meal in the course of the evening, in the shape of supper or something of that sort?—They could provide their drink for the Sunday on the Saturday, the same as they could provide meat or any other commodity.

801. You would argue for the houses being closed the whole of Sunday; but I understood you to say that there would be no inconvenience, but rather the contrary, in having the houses open from one to three; would not there be the same necessity for their being open at a later hour in the evening for the purpose of supplying beer for the supper, or evening meal?—I do not see why they should; there is not so much beer drunk at supper as at dinner.

802. Do you think the people drink beer at all with their supper?—I cannot say.

803. Would it not be equally convenient and necessary, if it was convenient and necessary to have the public-houses open from one to three, that they should be open an hour or two in the evening, to enable persons to obtain malt liquor?—Provided they were not allowed to drink in the house, but only to draw beer and sell it over the bar.

804. Would there be any more inconvenience in the public-houses being open an hour or two in the evening than from one to three o'clock in the day?—No.

805. Mr. *Brown.*] Are you not aware that the great drunkenness takes place in the evening, from there being a greater temptation to remain in the public-houses in the evening than in the middle of the day?—Yes.

806. Of course, if the public-houses were open in the evening, there would be more temptation than in the middle of the day?—Yes; because they repair there at a late hour.

807. I think

807. I think you are under the impression that, if the public-houses were shut on the Sunday, the wives would have such influence over their husbands, so long as they were sober, as to prevent their bringing too much beer home for use on the Sunday?—Yes.

808. Mr. *Lowe.*] Is there much drunkenness in your neighbourhood?—There is at night.

809. *Chairman.*] Is it not chiefly on the Sunday?—More on Saturday night and Sunday night than any other part of the week.

810. The people have more leisure?—Yes.

811. Mr. *Lowe.*] On which is it the most, Saturday night or Sunday night?—About equal.

812. Do you propose to close the public-houses on Saturday earlier than 12 o'clock?—Yes, earlier than 12 o'clock.

813. What time?—Ten o'clock is a good hour.

814. *Chairman.*] Does the evil of drunkenness on Sunday night stop there; are not the working class at times unable to go to work on Monday morning from having been drunk on Sunday night?—I think, when they have been intoxicated on Sunday, they do not feel altogether very well on Monday.

815. Is it not the case, that a great part of Monday is wasted by working men?—Yes, by a certain class of tradesmen.

816. They do not go to work very early on a Monday?—No; some do not.

817. Sir *J. Pakington*] Do the public-houses and beerhouses in your neighbourhood habitually allow credit to the artisans who drink there, or is it generally a ready-money trade?—That question I cannot answer.

818. *Chairman.*] What would be the opinion of your own class in life of closing the houses on Sunday?—To close them altogether.

819. Do you think their opinion is, that that would be advisable?—To close the public-houses altogether, and then there would be no inducement to keep them from their families.

820. What, do you believe they think about it themselves; they are not all like you, having their beer from a brewer on Thursday?—I suppose not; the general opinion of mechanics is to have the houses closed on the Sunday.

821. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Have you heard the subject much talked about?—I have.

822. Have you heard that opinion expressed?—Yes.

823. Sir *G. Grey.*] You think working men desire that the temptation to drunkenness should be removed out of their way, because they have not strength to resist the temptation?—They have not, unless some person does it for them.

824. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Have you heard individuals express that opinion, whom you know to be in the habit of drinking?—I do not know that I have.

825. Mr. *Packe.*] Your idea of closing is that the houses should be closed for drinking on the premises, with the exception of an hour or two for selling liquor to be drunk off the premises?—My opinion is, to close the houses on Sunday altogether, and not to allow any to be drunk on the premises, except at an hour or two in the middle of the day, to serve those who want it.

826. Mr. *Brown.*] Would you not allow travellers or lodgers to have refreshment at all during the day on Sunday?—I should say lodgers would provide themselves with beer in the same way as other necessaries.

827. They cannot provide it in any other way than getting it from the public-houses, and probably lodgers may not have vessels to carry it away on the Saturday night?—Travellers would require refreshment, provided they were travelling a long distance, but I do not see what a traveller wants of refreshment for only travelling four or five miles.

828. In seaport towns it is very difficult to regulate the time of travellers; they are coming from sea at all hours of the day and night?—I can speak of one seaport town I am acquainted with; I had occasion to go there last Christmas for the benefit of my health, and then I found the houses closed altogether.

829. Sir *G. Grey.*] What was that town?—Ipswich. I never saw a public-house open scarcely all day on Sunday.

830. Do you mean to say that the public-houses and beershops were all closed

Mr. *G. Haddock.*

26 May 1854.

on Sunday at Ipswich?—With the exception of a couple of hours to serve beer in the middle of the day.

831. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Do you know whether that is under any local regulation, or whether it is merely under an agreement amongst themselves?—It is merely from their own option.

832. Sir *G. Grey.*] Did you know Ipswich formerly?—Yes.

833. Was it the practice then, or is it a recent practice?—There never was so much drinking there as there is about London.

834. Were you ever at Ipswich at the time of an election?—No.

835. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you know the population of Ipswich?—I believe it is about 50,000; there are 12 parishes in it.

Mr. *Charles Bowthorpe*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *C. Bowthorpe.*

836. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you live?—At Brixton-hill.

837. What business are you?—A Coach Painter.

838. You have heard the evidence which has been given to the Committee by the former witnesses; are you of opinion that the mechanics would approve of closing public-houses on Sunday?—I believe they would approve of it very much.

839. Do you know a great number of your own class who would approve of public-houses being closed on Sunday?—Yes; I know a great many men who use the public-houses on the Sunday. None of the working class, except the most immoral, leave their work on Saturday evening with the intention of spending two or three hours at a public-house, but they have not sufficient moral rectitude to resist the temptation. They turn in and waste their money. Then they go home; the wife generally remonstrates, unless she is broken into it, and then there ensues one of those family quarrels which the magistrate is supposed to settle; but a great many of those cases never come before the magistrate. I believe it is the temptation which induces the men to use the public-houses on the Sunday.

840. You know many persons who do not leave their work with the intention of going to a public-house, but they cannot resist the temptation when they pass by?—Yes; I have heard them say so.

841. Have you heard people say that they wished the public-houses were closed, in order that they should not be tempted to go into them?—I have. There is a man in my neighbourhood that took a petition round upon this very question, and he was laughed at, because it is known that he used the public-house more than he ought, but he got 370 signatures for all that.

842. From what class of persons?—Very many drunkards: from the working class altogether.

843. You are not mentioning particular exceptional cases, but you believe it to be general, that men who drink in this way themselves wish to be saved from the temptation?—Just so.

844. Are you of opinion that it would be no inconvenience to the working class to close the public-houses on Sunday?—I think it would be none at all.

845. Are there not plenty of people who do not drink to excess, and who go to a public-house on Sunday merely for the purpose of getting beer for their refreshment?—I do not think they want the public-houses open on Sunday at all.

846. Do you know many of the working class who do not go into a public-house on Sunday?—I do not myself.

847. What do you do instead?—I buy it on the Saturday if I want it, but I find it quite possible to exist through the Sunday without any beer.

848. Or spirits?—Yes, I can do without it; but if I have a few friends coming on the Sunday, or anything of that sort, I have provided myself with it on the Saturday.

849. You are not one of those who abstain altogether?—No, I am not a total abstainer.

850. Is it not generally the habit amongst the working classes to have beer or spirits during the course of the day on Sunday?—I think it is generally.

851. There are few, I suppose, who lay in any stock of beer, or receive it from the brewer?—More than might be supposed; I know several who provide themselves with small casks of beer; it is much cheaper; they can get it at five

five farthings or three-halfpence a pint, and they would have to pay more at a public-house; they seem to like it better. In fact I was thinking of doing the same thing myself; I know several who do it.

852. When is it that this temptation is presented to working men chiefly; is it on Saturday night or Sunday?—They commence on Saturday night; people are in the habit of drinking more then, after they have got their wages.

853. It is usual to pay wages on Saturday night, is it not?—Yes.

854. And it is after that, and after the work is closed, that they go to the public-house?—Yes, they go directly they get their wages; it is the custom in my trade to have a glass or a pint on Saturday night.

855. What hour do they get their wages at?—At seven or eight o'clock in the evening.

856. On Sunday, do they go chiefly in the evening to the ale-house?—Chiefly in the evening.

857. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Are they always paid on Saturday night?—Yes, in my business; I wish it was Friday.

858. Mr. *Brown.*] Are you paid at the public-house?—No.

859. At your master's house?—Yes.

860. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are there many men who work for your employer?—About 20.

861. Do many of those men abstain, as you do, from frequenting the public-house on Sunday?—I do not know that they do conscientiously.

862. Is it their practice not to go to a public-house on Sunday?—Yes, with some of them.

863. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Are you a married man?—Yes.

864. Have you a separate house of your own?—Yes; I let half of it.

865. You retain enough for the accommodation of your own family?—Yes.

866. Have most of your brother workmen the same convenience of a home that you have?—Most of them.

867. Do you think that many persons respectably disposed frequent the public-house on Sunday from want of any home accommodation of that sort, and not knowing where else to pass their time?—No, I think not; I think it is the temptation in a very great measure that draws them into the public-houses.

868. *Chairman.*] What is the temptation; is it the company, or the exciting drink that they get?—The company; they read the newspapers, and talk and drink.

869. If intoxicating liquors were prohibited from being sold on the Sunday night, might they resort to other places, such as coffee-shops, or reading-rooms, where they would find company, or where they might otherwise amuse themselves?—Yes; and there would be one advantage, they would not get intoxicated and waste their money.

870. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is there any other place to which they might go to read the newspaper?—The coffee-shops.

871. Do you think that the habits of workmen generally are improving as respects drinking; do you think there is less drunkenness than there used to be amongst that class?—I should rather say there is; in my own business at any rate.

872. To what do you attribute that improvement?—There are a great many books published, periodicals and that like, which helps to open their understandings, and they get to know better; they have other pursuits, and they enjoy themselves more; at home very many take in some little periodical or other.

873. *Chairman.*] Do many of your fellow-workmen take in periodicals?—Yes, and they are members of institutions. I am myself a member of a working man's institute; I have library books, and I attribute the decrease of drunkenness in a great measure to these things.

874. Mr. *Brown.*] Is there any social visiting among the working classes on the Sunday evening; do they take tea with each other?—Yes; I have frequently my brothers come to see me on Sunday.

875. Is that habit increasing?—I think it is.

876. And it forms a substitute for the resort of the public-house?—Yes.

877. I think I understood you to say that, in passing a public-house, if an individual went in to take one glass, that probably might lead to a second or a third, and even to intemperance?—I do think so.

Mr. C. Bowthorpe.

26 May 1854.

878. Mr. *Packe.*] Is it not the habit of the working classes to have a rather better dinner with their families on Sunday than on any other day of the week?—People who do not make too much use of the public-house; the others often go without any dinner.

879. Those who live at home have a better dinner on Sunday than on other days in the week?—Yes.

880. Would it not be an inconvenience to those persons not to be able to get their beer from the public-houses for their dinner?—No. When they go out holiday making they always expect to live a little better; and no difficulty is made of putting drink in bottles on those occasions. I know some families who are in the habit of buying a bottle of British wine, for use on Sunday, on the Saturday night.

881. Although there are some who do that, the generality of the working classes drink beer, ale and porter, do they not?—Yes; but there would be no difficulty in providing it. I know an instance of a young man who lives next door but one to me; he buys his beer for the week all at once. He likes stout and sixpenny ale mixed; he buys it and puts it into a bottle; if it did not keep good he would not do so; and a friend of mine who likes the beer sends to a house half a mile or three quarters of a mile from where he lives, it being rather an inconvenient distance to fetch it; he has more in quantity than he requires for immediate use, and it keeps very well in bottles.

882. Mr. *Packe.*] What is the usual hour of dinner amongst the working classes?—One o'clock.

883. I presume they have another meal in the evening besides the dinner?—They have tea, and many of them supper.

884. Do not they at supper always have beer?—Generally; but they can leave some from the dinner time for supper; they can provide for that in the same way as for their dinner.

885. Would not the working classes consider that the beer would be better drawn fresh from the cask than when put into a bottle and kept for a day?—There is very little difference; I have kept it so myself, and there is no difference of any consequence at all.

886. Is it not more flat?—There might be a little difference, but nothing of any consequence. If, as one of the other witnesses observed, the bottle was turned upside down the air would not get into the bottle, and it would be quite as good and as fresh.

887. Your usual habit is not to have any malt liquor on Sunday?—Not always; I do generally.

888. Lord *D. Stuart.*] I think you said that you could exist for a Sunday without drinking beer?—Yes, very often I do; I do not trouble so much about beer myself; I like a pint of beer very well.

889. You seem to have a great objection to going into a public-house on a Sunday; would you rather go without beer than do that?—I would.

890. You think, on principle, that it is a wrong thing to go to a public-house on Sunday?—Yes.

891. Are there not a good many teetotallers amongst the working classes?—There are a good many.

892. Are there many that you know amongst your own acquaintance?—Not in my business; but I know others living in the neighbourhood who are teetotallers.

893. Do you think that it is increasing amongst the working classes; are there many more than there used to be?—I think they are on the increase.

894. Mr. *Packe.*] Are there any what are called temperance houses in your neighbourhood?—No, I do not know any called by that name.

895. *Chairman.*] Is it not within your own experience that the working classes have become much more orderly, and demean themselves better than they used to do?—Yes; I think that is on account of closing the public-houses on Sunday. That was a great benefit, I am certain.

896. Mr. *Lowe.*] Would you keep the public-houses open on Saturday night?—Yes.

897. Until what time?—I think myself that 10 o'clock would be the best hour.

898. Is not there a great deal of drunkenness on Saturday night?—Yes.

899. You

899. You would not stop that?—I would let the houses be open till 10 o'clock. Mr. C. Bowthorpe.

900. Do you think that would stop the drunkenness?—A good deal of it, and I think the men could do all the little business they want by that hour. 26 May 1854.

901. What time is a man paid his wages on Saturday nights?—From seven to eight o'clock; I believe in our business they are paid by that time, if the master is a regular man.

902. You spoke of the working men having business to do at the public-house on Saturday night; what business do you refer to?—They go to settle their little accounts among each other.

903. At the public-houses?—Yes.

904. Do you think that that is a good plan?—I do not know that it is; it is the plan which is adopted.

905. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you think it would be a better plan to close the houses on Saturday night for selling on the premises at an early hour, and to keep them open till a later hour for selling off the premises for the next day's consumption?—That might be done; but it would be a hard job for the policeman to keep them from drinking on the premises.

906. *Chairman.*] You would consider it to be an amendment of the law, if no beer or spirits were sold on the Sunday to be consumed on the premises?—Yes.

907. You think it is by remaining at the public-house that people get drunk?—Yes.

908. Mr. *Lowe.*] Would it be possible to open a public-house on Sunday for the purpose of selling beer, and to prevent beer from being drunk on the premises?—I think it would be almost impossible; I think they would draw them some.

909. *Chairman.*] You are not speaking merely your own opinion, but you consider that there would be no inconvenience suffered by people of your class, if the public-houses were closed on the Sundays?—No.

910. You see nothing in the convenience of the working people which requires the publicans to be privileged in a different way from bakers or butchers, or any other tradesmen?—No.

911. At present a publican is allowed to carry on trade, whilst other people are not?—Yes.

912. That is attended with a great evil, and is not attended with benefit to the community?—That is my opinion.

Mr. *Joseph Powell*, called in; and Examined.

913. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?—I am a Cab Driver and Proprietor. Mr. J. Powell.

914. You are out at night, I suppose?—Yes, in general till sometimes eight, nine and ten o'clock, and all hours of the night.

915. Where do you live?—At No. 23, Upper Gower-mews, Torrington-square.

916. You are not confined to any part of the town?—No; I am all over the town.

917. Do you resort much to public-houses in the course of your business?—No.

918. Are you a total abstainer?—Yes, I am a total abstainer. I go into a public-house to fetch liquor out for gentlemen; I am ordered to pull up at those places.

919. I presume there are very few following your business who abstain altogether?—There are about four or five dozen, that I know.

920. Sir *G. Grey.*] How long have you been a total abstainer?—Five years.

921. *Chairman.*] Have you found any inconvenience from it?—No.

922. Others would consider it necessary, particularly in your business, to have the public-houses open at night?—They do consider it necessary. Dram-drinking is a very great custom amongst our people.

923. Are you of opinion that the public-houses ought to be closed on Sunday night?—On Sunday altogether, in my opinion.

924. Do not cabmen work on Sundays?—Not all; there are six-day cabs and seven-day cabs; ours are six-day cabs.

Mr. *J. Powell.*

26 May 1854.

925. Do you take out a licence for a different number of days?—Yes.

926. Your cabs are six-day cabs?—Yes.

927. I presume the six-day cabs are not the majority?—There are about 800 six-day cabs.

928. What number of licences are granted to cabs?—The average is about 3,500.

929. You have expressed an opinion, that public-houses ought to be closed on Sunday; have you considered the inconvenience that that would occasion to people in your own business?—In my own business it would put them to no inconvenience at all, because the cabmen who come out on Saturday night at 10 o'clock provide themselves with a bottle of beer, or what they want, and put it into the boot of the cab; and they could do the same on Sunday if they were out.

930. Having a cab gives them the convenience which other working men have not?—No; other men are at home; I am talking of men who are out from home; the men at home supply themselves in bottles, those that will not buy and sell on the Lord's day. Several cabmen have set themselves against buying and selling on the Lord's day; they buy it on Saturday, and they have a bottle, and take it home.

931. So that they could not have any reasonable cause of complaint if the public-houses were closed on Sunday?—No, they wish them to be closed; the majority of them, however.

932. Have you heard many of those who have seven days' licences wish the public-houses to be closed on Sunday?—Yes; they think it would induce their masters to take out a six days' licence. They drive from eight or nine o'clock in the morning till 12 o'clock, or two or three the next morning; and to follow that up the whole of the seven days is too much for their physical powers.

933. The master does not want the driver to go to the public-house?—No.

934. How would it operate upon the proprietors of cabs, if the houses were closed on Sunday?—The men would be a soberer set of men, and spend less money at the public-houses; they would have money in their pockets, and perhaps be induced to give the master an extra shilling, or have an extra shilling for themselves, instead of spending it in drink. Many men, since those six-day numbers have been out, are a different sort of men altogether; they are more moralised and better behaved; they begin to have a little self-importance, which they had not got before.

935. They gain less, I suppose?—No; they gain more.

936. They do not gain more in the six days than the others do in seven, do they?—Yes.

937. Why?—Because they do not sleep about; they get into good habits, and they do not go into public-houses quite so much. They clean their cabs, and seem more respectable, and get more customers; they are looking forward to a day of rest, and for that reason they are more anxious to get customers, and they do not loiter their time away so much.

938. What amount of experience are you speaking from; are you only mentioning your own case, having once had a seven days' licence?—I drove a hackney coach about 40 years. I have been in the habit of driving Sundays and all for about 34 years. It is only the last five or six years I have been kept from going out on Sunday. I think a person that plies a six-day cab drinks less than one who plies a seven-day one, and I will tell you why; they seem a different set of men. I know men who have been drunkards, that have come to drive a six-day number, and have the Sunday to themselves, and they seem to like it. Some of them go to a place of worship, and others are led to take a walk in the parks. They have a day of rest, and they seem to be cleaner and more respectable, and better behaved. They do not drink so much.

939. It does not depend upon them whether the licence is for six days or seven, but upon the proprietor?—Yes.

940. He gets whom he chooses to drive?—Yes; but all masters like sober men to drive for them.

941. Sir *G. Grey.*] You think it is easier to get a sober man for a six days' licence?—Yes, the generality of them are soberer men; they seem to be more moralised than the others.

942. *Chairman.*] Supposing that public-houses were closed on Sunday, that would

would not prevent the seven-day licences being taken out?—No, there would still be seven-day coachmen.

943. Do you think that they would be more respectable because the public-houses closed on Sunday?—I think they would. There is a great inducement for cabmen to go into public-houses when they are waiting about. There are not many customers on Sunday, unless it rains in the evening.

944. It might be better for them, but would they not complain a great deal of the grievance of not being able to go to a public-house if it was closed?—No; all that I have spoken to think it would be a very good thing for the public-houses to be closed on the Sabbath.

945. Do you think that they are really attracted from the house being open, and not from any habit of drinking?—They are drawn into the public-houses from their being open; they cannot withstand the temptation.

946. Are you prepared to state to this Committee that there would be no objection to closing the public-houses on Sunday night, so that the people who drive the cabs about the streets could not have access to them?—Yes.

947. You think that they could provide themselves with what liquor they required, and they could carry it about with them?—They do so now; the houses are not open till one o'clock on Sunday, and they could do so for the whole day if they were out for the whole day.

948. I presume you know a good deal of the habits of that particular class of men?—Yes.

949. Are they not generally speaking a drunken class of men?—Yes, a great many; but they are getting a great deal better now.

950. There is an improvement in that class now?—Yes, a great deal.

951. Since the last Act?—Well, I do not know that that has made any improvement.

952. Sir *G. Grey.*] To what do you attribute the improvement?—I attribute the improvement from their having the example of others; there are many well-conducted men since these six-day licences have been out; many of the men go to a place of worship that never had an opportunity before.

953. How long have these six-day licences been obtainable?—Since this last new Act.

954. Mr. *Lowe.*] How many cabs have you of your own?—Four.

955. Sir *G. Grey.*] What is the difference in the price of a six days' licence and a seven days' licence?—We do not pay any duty; we pay 1*s.* a day, and we pay only for six days; the amount of duty has been reduced, but not adequate to the reduction in the fares.

956. *Chairman.*] Have the number of cabs increased since the last Act passed?—They have been reduced.

957. Is there much more business done?—There are many small fares done, but we do not want them at all.

958. Sir. *G. Grey.*] Are there any cabs which only ply on Sunday?—None; a number are taken out on Sunday, and some of them drive on a Sunday. I suppose there are about 1,200 or 1,300 on the Sunday. There are a great many people who have seven days' licences, who do not work their cabs on account of the horses not being able to work; the horses get jaded.

959. Mr. *Packe.*] Do the six-day cabmasters generally make Sunday a day of rest?—Yes; they cannot work on the Sunday.

960. You have driven, you say, for the last 40 years, hackney coaches and cabs?—Yes.

961. During the course of that time you must in a cold winter's night, in the rain, have suffered from being wet through?—I have.

962. Do not you think it necessary that you should have some spirits or beer, or something of that sort?—I know that water is best then, if I am thirsty.

963. I mean if you have a chill?—I have been out one winter upon water, and I find I stand the cold better; my blood is not heated.

964. But you may get wet through; what do you do then?—We do not get wet through, we have box coats.

965. *Chairman.*] Do you know much of the practice of the customers of cabmen; are many of them taken to public-houses on Sunday?—I know it used to be so when I drove on the Sunday. I sometimes pass the public-houses on a Sunday, and I see the manners and customs of them. I see the men

Mr. J. Powell.

26 May 1854.

there hanging about sometimes, wanting employment; the one entices the other into the public-house, to go and put their halfpence together, as they call it, to have drams.

966. Are you speaking of cabmen?—Yes.

967. Do not they bring a great many persons to hotels on Sunday?—In the summer time, if people tell them to pull up at a public-house; it is generally people out for a ride; it is a sort of custom.

968. You cannot tell the Committee that it is necessary to have the public-houses open during the night, from any experience which you have had of the habits of your customers?—Not by any means.

969. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do the men who drive your cabs have Sunday to themselves?—Yes.

970. Do they frequent the public-house on Sunday?—I have asked our men how the working six days operates, and they say they have more money for themselves; I have asked them about shutting the public-houses on Sunday, and they say they wish they were shut.

971. Is it their habit to frequent public-houses on Sunday?—I only know two or three that do not frequent public-houses.

972. Do you find your men ready to work on Monday morning?—Yes; they are clean and respectable.

973. Mr. *Packe.*] Do those men who drive the cabs take care of the horses?—Yes.

974. Do not the horses require to be taken care of on Sunday?—Yes; we only clean and feed them on the Sunday.

975. Mr. *Lowe.*] What do you say with regard to keeping public-houses open all night on week days?—I do not think it is necessary; if people are out at night and want refreshment, there are plenty of houses where they can go and get refreshments of a proper nature.

976. *Chairman.*] You think that there is no occasion to have houses open for the purpose of selling intoxicating liquors during the night?—No. I have been into public-houses; I I have often peeped in, and I find that the inmates are of the lower class and dirty people; and there is quarrelling and all manner of vice going on in front of the bars.

977. At what hour of the night have you observed those people?—Sometimes from 12 to 3 o'clock; I have had a waiting job, I have looked in.

978. What would become of those people if the public-houses were closed from twelve to three?—They would go to their homes.

979. You say that they are of the very lowest class?—They are what I call the scum of society. They would go to their own homes, or the money spent in the public-houses would provide them with a bed.

980. They would be obliged to go somewhere?—Yes; the police would not allow them to walk the streets.

981. In what part of the town are the houses kept open after 12 o'clock?—In all parts, especially about the Haymarket, and those places where the saloons are; the public-houses about Covent Garden and Ratcliffe Highway especially.

982. Have you seen the public-houses open till three or four o'clock in the morning?—Yes; a great many of them keep their doors open; and there are others where the doors are all but shut, and, as you pass by, you might suppose the house was shut up, but when you knock they let you in; there are a great many houses in that way.

983. Those are not what are called gin palaces?—Yes, they are; the people stand before the front of the bar.

984. Are they houses with no taprooms or other places of accommodation?—Just so.

985. Is it at such places that you see the greatest number of people late at night?—Yes, on Sunday night I have seen more people. I am never out of a Sunday night after nine or ten o'clock; but I have seen more people in the front of the bars of a Sunday night than any other night in the week. I have noticed as I went home, if I have been out anywhere, that the fronts of the bars are more especially attended on Sunday night than any other night.

986. Mr. *Lowe.*] More than on the Saturday night?—Not at that hour on the Saturday night; but late on Saturday night, I am given to understand that public-houses are used; I know they are; I have been out.

987. What

987. What time would you close them on Saturday night?—I think 10 o'clock would be the best time to close them.

988. Mr. *Gregson.*] And at what hour on other nights?—About 12 o'clock, I should say.

989. *Chairman.*] I presume few people amongst the working classes lead harder lives than cabmen?—Very few.

990. Do you think they are generally of opinion that the public-houses had better be closed earlier at night upon the week-days, and closed altogether on Sunday?—Yes.

991. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you pay wages to your cabmen?—They bring a certain quantity of money home, according to the time of the year.

992. Is that done every day?—Yes.

993. Lord *D. Stuart.*] You say that more money is to be gained by six-days' than seven-days' cabs?—Yes.

994. Does that apply to the cab-driver or the proprietor?—The proprietor does not get any more money brought in; the driver gets more.

995. Does the proprietor get as much?—Of course, there would be a little less money from there not being any brought home on Sunday, but the cattle would not travel so many miles in the week.

996. You think it is a more profitable thing to keep a six-day cab than a seven-day cab?—Yes.

997. How do you account for everybody not taking out six-day licences?—I suppose people are avaricious to have the profits of Sundays, and they cannot see it in the way I do. People who want to go a long distance look out for a respectable cab; and if any of you gentlemen take notice, as you pass the streets, and look at the cabs in general, you will find the six-day cabs cleaner; it is a better cab, and the man is cleaner, and the horse looks livelier and better than a seven-day cab.

998. *Chairman.*] Is there any notice in the number whether it is a six day-cab or a seven-day cab?—Yes; because all the numbers of the six-day cabs are above 10,000, and the seven day-cabs are under 5,000.

999. Sir *G. Grey.*] What is there between 5,000 and 10,000?—There is none between; the seven-day cabs are only 3,700; the six-day cabs begin at 10,000 and upwards to distinguish them, so that they should not work on Sunday.

1000. Lord *Dudley Stuart.*] Is less money paid for a six-day licence than a seven-day licence?—Yes.

1001. Mr. *Brown.*] You cannot use any cab on Sunday for which you have taken out a six-day licence?—No.

1002. Does not it happen that job-masters, who have a large number of cabs, change their horses frequently, and give them rest during the week days instead of on Sunday, to prevent the jading of the cattle, which you think must take place?—Very few masters keep horses without working them; it requires two horses a day to work a day cab. Since the fares are so low, if it was not for the extra passengers, we could not keep on at all. For instance, if one horse is able to work 20 miles, there are sure to be five miles waste, that is, going back to the stands; that would be only 7*s.* 6*d.*, and that would be a poor quantity to divide between the master and the man, and keep two horses. By resting on the Sunday, the horses are fresher for their week's work; and a horse can do more in six days than in seven.

1003. Do not the large job-masters keep an extra horse or two in order to give the horses rest?—Very few, because it is such an expense.

1004. Mr. *Packe.*] Do not the horses in the seven-day cabs rest upon some other day than Sunday?—They work all the seven days.

1005. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do not the cabmen bring their best cabs out on Sunday?—No; there are some very good cabs that work with seven-day licences.

1006. Mr. *Brown.*] If you had half a dozen seven-day licensed cabs, and half a dozen six-day licensed cabs, could you not send out any of those you pleased on the Sunday?—Yes.

1007. You are not confined to send out a particular cab?—No.

Mr. *Edward Bryon* was called in; and Examined.

Mr. *E. Bryon.*

26 May 1854.

1008. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?—A Stone Potter.

1009. Do you reside in London?—In Lambeth.

1010. Do you belong to any teetotal association?—Yes; I have been a teetotaller 10 years.

1011. You are of opinion that public-houses ought to be closed altogether, I suppose?—Yes, as far as my own opinion is concerned; and it is the general opinion of the men in the manufactory in which I am engaged, which is a very large one, that closing them on Sunday would be a great benefit to the working classes in general.

1012. Mr. *Brown.*] How many men are working in the manufactory in which you are employed?—About 100 hands; 60 men and about 40 or 45 lads.

1013. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Are there many teetotallers amongst them?—Not a great many.

1014. *Chairman.*] You are conveying to the Committee what you believe to be the opinion of the working men in your establishment, on the subject of closing public-houses on Sunday?—Yes, I obtained their opinion by their giving their signatures to a petition upon the subject.

1015. Are the large majority of opinion that public-houses ought to be closed on Sunday?—There are about 10 against it.

1016. Mr. *Gregson.*] Ten out of what number?—Out of 60.

1017. *Chairman.*] Would they close them altogether on Sunday, or would they leave them open for two or three hours, and then close them for the rest of the day?—Their idea is that they could get beer as easily on Saturday night as any other article; they refer to the circumstance when they were partially closed; they say it seemed to be hard at first, but afterwards all classes saw the benefit of it.

1018. They entirely approve of public-houses being closed the first part of the day?—Yes.

1019. Is this a matter which has been considered amongst men of your class?—We have conversed upon it for some time.

1020. Are they satisfied that no inconvenience would be experienced by closing public-houses for the whole of the day?—Not the slightest. They say that at first there would be some inconvenience, but if they chose to get the beer in on Saturday in a very little time all classes would feel the benefit of it.

1021. If the public-houses were open for two hours, from one to three, nobody could complain of any inconvenience?—I should think those engaged as waiters or servants would.

1022. Sir *G. Grey.*] What are the habits of those men generally?—Much the same as other classes of mechanics.

1023. Are they a sober class of men, or are they in the habit of frequenting public-houses much on a Sunday?—I am afraid they are not altogether of a sober class; many of them do frequent public-houses.

1024. Why, if they desire that the public-houses should be closed, and have signed petitions to that effect, do not they refrain from going to the public-houses?—I suppose the temptation is too great.

1025. When you have been talking this subject over with them, do they account for that at all?—They believe if they were to abstain altogether from intoxicating liquor their families would be better for it, and yet they do not.

1026. Do they give you any reason for wishing the public-houses to be closed, and at the same time for frequenting them now they are opened on Sunday?—Not any further, than that they believe it would be a benefit to thousands; it would appear hard at first, but they believe ultimately that they would reap the benefit.

1027. You asked them to sign this petition?—Yes; after which I laid it on one of the tables, and left it for two days.

1028. Have you pointed out the advantages which you think would accrue from the public-houses being closed on Sunday?—Yes.

1029. Have you ever tried to persuade them not to go to the public-house on Sunday?—Yes, I have tried to persuade them to give up drink altogether.

1030. Some men might be willing not to go to the public-house on Sunday, without abstaining altogether on other days; have you ever tried to induce them to abstain from frequenting public-houses on Sunday?—Repeatedly.

1031. You

323

Mr. *E. Bryon.*

26 May 1854.

1031. You do not find that you succeed in that?—Some of the men do not go to the public-houses at all on Sunday, and there is a marked difference in the appearance of those men, and in the appearance of their families also.

1032. Is there an improvement in that respect going on amongst the working classes, as far as your experience extends?—Yes.

1033. How long has that improvement taken place?—The last eight or ten years.

1034. To what do you attribute that improvement?—I attribute a great deal of it to the influence of temperance societies.

1035. Mr. *Lowe.*] In the factory where you work 10 men, you say, were in favour of keeping the houses open on Sunday?—Not more than 10.

1036. Have you any idea what the habits of those men are?—They are men who would drink at any time at any place where they could get liquor; to give you some idea of them, some of them have children abandoned thieves; those men themselves are to be found in the public-houses on Saturday and Sunday night, while their children are the inmates of the ragged school which I belong to.

1037. Sir *G. Grey.*] When are your wages paid?—On Friday night.

1038. How long has that been the case?—I have been engaged where I am 10 years, and it has been so all that time, and for five years previous.

1039. Do the men come to work on Saturday as well as any other day in the week?—Yes; generally speaking.

1040. *Chairman.*] What was the object of paying the men on the Friday?—The proprietor wished that they should go to market on Saturday instead of Sunday morning.

1041. That system answers, I suppose?—Not in every case.

1042. I understood you to say, that some of those persons who were drunkards, or people who were in the habit of frequenting public-houses on Sunday, have signed your petition?—Many of them.

1043. They have not changed their habits since they signed the petition?—I am not aware that they have.

1044. They are aware of their own infirmity or weakness, and as they cannot resist the temptation they want it to be withheld from them?—Yes; there is company to be found at the public-house on the Sunday afternoon and evening; they frequent it more for the company's sake than for the drinking.

1045. Where would they go to if the public-house was closed; what is their opinion upon that?—They would speedily be better clothed, and be out enjoying themselves with their families, those that did not prefer going to places of worship, in my opinion.

1046. You do not know whether they would drink at home?—No.

1047. Sir *G. Grey.*] You say that some of these children are at the ragged schools on account of the father's drunkenness, and his not being able to support them?—I happen to be the superintendent of a ragged school, and I could pick out a hundred children, many of whose fathers and mothers are drunkards.

1048. Do you know whether the parents are in receipt of good wages, and could maintain their children and send them to school if they were not drunkards?—Some of them are in receipt of better wages than myself.

1049. Mr. *Gregson.*] One hundred children out of what number in the school?—I suppose 250.

1050. *Chairman.*] Those children do get education, notwithstanding the habits of the parents?—The children that come to this Sunday evening school are left to grow up in depravity and vice, through the drunken habits of their parents.

1051. Do you believe it to be the fact that in a very large proportion of cases of juvenile delinquency the fathers or mothers are drunkards?—I believe, by far the majority of cases of juvenile delinquency is in consequence of the drinking habits of the parents.

1052. The whole of the children are neglected?—Yes; they are left with their minds uncared for and uncultivated.

1053. Do you connect these habits of drunkenness in the parents with the facilities of obtaining drink, or their own education having been neglected in early life?—To both causes; principally to the propensity to drink, because we

Mr. *E. Bryon.*

26 May 1854.

have known persons who have had a high education, who have fallen into habits of drinking, and become drunkards.

1054. Do you believe if public-houses were closed on Sunday, the habits of such persons would be much changed?—I do.

1055. Do you think that those persons would be reformed by closing the public-houses on Sunday?—I do not know that they would be thoroughly reformed; I believe if the public-houses were closed entirely on the Sabbath, instead of those persons being found in the public-houses on Sunday afternoons and evenings, they would begin to get a kind of self-respect for themselves, and their children would be better clothed; some would attend a place of worship, and others would enjoy the beauties of nature.

1056. Have you any experience of persons who have been reclaimed from habits of drunkenness?—Yes, many.

1057. Has that been merely from the circumstance of the temptation not being in their way, or from instruction, or from conversion?—They have been prevailed upon to abstain from drink altogether.

1058. You have seen their habits totally changed?—Yes, and their families educated and cared for, and become respectable.

1059. Do you belief that this vice begins from going on Sunday night to a public-house?—It may not have its beginning here, but it is evident it is a means for its propagation.

1060. Do you believe it is the men or the women chiefly who drink when the children become criminals?—In many cases both; but I believe a drunken father will make a woman careless and indifferent about her home.

1061. Is it not frequently the case that women get drunk?—Yes, as well as the fathers.

1062. Then it is all over with the family?—You may imagine the state of things, when the father and mother are both drunkards.

1063. Do you find that women go to the public-houses?—Very much indeed in Lambeth.

1064. Do they go there on the Sunday?—I have looked in at the doors of the ginshops when I have been coming home from school, and I have seen the parents of the children that I have had under my instruction in the evening.

1065. Do the women attend places of worship more than men?—Not that I am aware of.

1066. What are the habits of those people; are they decently clothed, or are they disreputable in their appearance or in their language?—Yes, in language and appearance both.

1067. Those are the people who frequent the public-house on Sunday generally?—Yes.

1068. It is not any of the respectable portion of the community that would complain if the houses were closed on Sunday?—I do not believe that any respectable man would complain; I think the respectable part of the community would see the benefit of it; it is only the lower classes, I think.

1069. Sir *G. Grey.*] How would they spend the time on Sunday which they now spend at the public-house?—I think the money which they now spend in drink on Sunday would speedily clothe them better, and they would be found in the fields, or in the parks enjoying nature, and many perhaps would be going to a place of worship.

1070. *Chairman.*] You think there would be no harm to give them access to places of innocent recreation?—No; so that it does not put a burden upon others.

1071. Would it not be an advantage to throw open museums and other places of innocent recreation?—Not if it conferred labour upon another man. The parks are open now, and they can enjoy the parks, as many of them do.

1072. You cannot hope to reform these people by merely shutting them out of the public-house; as a means to a good end in view, would you not have places of innocent recreation open?—If you refer to the parks, they are open; but if you refer to gardens as such places of amusement, I think they ought to be closed; for instance, I imagine it a great disgrace to our country to have such a place as Cremorne open on Sunday.

1073. Would

325

Mr. *E. Bryon.*

26 May 1854.

1073. Would you have the Zoological or Botanical Gardens open?—I would not have them open on any account.

1074. On account of the labour it would involve?—It would be taking the burden off the shoulders of one class, and laying it on the shoulders of another.

1075. We are talking of the means of reforming people of abandoned habits; would you not have a difficulty in drawing them to better places if you were to close the public-houses?—I think the thing would work itself.

1076. Is it not the case, that working people avail themselves of every place of this kind which is thrown open to them?—I do not know, but I think not.

1077. Do you know that the Kew Gardens were thrown open last year on the Sunday?—I am not aware of it; not on the Sunday; they might have been.

1078. Mr. *Packe.*] What time are the public-houses in Lambeth closed on Saturday night?—They profess to close them at 12 o'clock; but they are frequently open much later, till one in the morning.

1079. Do your workmen give over work much earlier on Saturday than other days in the week?—In the summer time we work from six till half-past five, and in the winter from seven to seven.

1080. Do you give over work earlier on Saturdays than on other days?—In the same time all the week through.

1081. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Do you approve of the payment of wages on Friday?—Yes; although some do not profit by it.

1082. Yet you consider it a general advantage?—I think it would be a general advantage if it were more universally adopted.

1083. Mr. *Brown.*] You have stated that you regret anything which would entail labour on any class of people during the Sunday; do not you think that to have a few people employed in looking after Botanical Gardens or Zoological Gardens, to see that the parties did not do harm, provided it was the means of withdrawing people from public-houses, would be the least evil of the two?—I would not have the Sabbath broken, as far as I am individually concerned, by putting a burden upon the shoulders of 100 people, in order to provide recreation for a greater number.

Mr. *Joseph Wood* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Wood.*

1084. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you live?—I live in Blackfriars-road, Lambeth.

1085. What is your business?—I am a Stonemason.

1086. Do you work with many other persons?—No; I am a foreman at present.

1087. Have you any opinion with respect to closing public-houses on Sunday?—I believe closing public-houses on Sunday would be an immense moral advantage to the working classes.

1088. In what way?—From the facts which have been published in reference to their being closed part of the day.

1089. You have considered the state of the town and the state of the working classes before the public-houses were closed, and you have considered them since, and you have come to the conclusion, I suppose, that they have been very much improved from that circumstance?—Yes.

1090. That is your opinion; can you state whether it is the opinion of many others whom you have consulted?—Yes.

1091. Why cannot those people abstain from the public-house if they think it is injurious to them?—A large number of persons go to the public-house, and perhaps they meet a number of individuals there that they did not anticipate; they commence talking, and very likely they get drinking, and so forth, and go considerably farther than they intended when they began.

1092. In fact, it brings them into bad company? Yes.

1093. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are there many workmen in the establishment of which you are the foreman?—About 25.

1094. What are their habits generally as to drinking?—Generally speaking, they are moderately sober men; there is only one that you might call a drunkard; that is, a man who leaves his employment for the purpose of getting drunk.

Mr. *J. Wood.*

26 May 1854.

1095. He leaves his employment on a week-day?—Yes.

1096. Do you think they drink more on Sunday than on other days?—Yes.

1097. Do they come to work on Monday regularly?—Generally speaking they do.

1098. When are the wages paid?—On Saturday, at four o'clock

1099. Does that lead to much drunkenness on the Saturday evening, or on the Sundays?—I should say it does.

1100. Mr. *Gregson.*] You think it would be better to pay them on Friday?—Yes.

1101. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Do you think the men would come to work on Saturday?—Yes, generally speaking.

1102. Sir *G. Grey.*] How long have you been in your present employment?—A dozen years.

1103. Has there been any improvement in the habits of the workmen during that period?—Since I have been foreman, I have set my face against men who were in the habit of losing time by drink; they know if they do not come to work they will have to leave their employment.

1104. Has that a good effect upon them?—It has.

1105. *Chairman.*] What wages do your men get?—The labourers get from 18*s.* to 1*l.*

1106. Have those people houses of their own, or do they live in lodgings?—Lodgings.

1107. Are they married men?—The majority of the masons more than the labourers.

1108. Do they live in rooms which they hire?—Yes.

1109. They necessarily resort to the public-house for their beer?—Yes.

1110. Do you know any of them that do not go to the public-house on Sunday?—Yes; there are some that do not go there at all.

1111. Still they have been?—No, I believe they have not.

1112. But there are some probably that abstain from going to a public-house on Sunday?—I do not know that there are any; not from moral or religious grounds.

1113. Do you believe it would put them to much inconvenience if public-houses were closed on Sunday?—No incovenience at all.

1114. Why not, since they must go to a public-house?—They go there from choice more than from necessity; and if the public-houses were closed on the last part of the day, as they are in the morning, they would accomodate themselves to the circumstances of the case.

1115. You think there would be no harm in leaving them open from one to three, so long as they were closed in the evening?—I far prefer their being closed altogether; the evil would be mitigated if they were only open from one to three.

1116. As a practical question, you think no inconvenience would follow if they were closed in the evening, leaving them open two hours in the day?—No inconvenience.

1117. You are speaking of people who earn 18*s.* and 1*l.* a week?—I include the masons as well, who have 33*s.* a week.

1118. Is it amongst those people that there is much drinking?—In both.

1119. Is a large portion of their wages spent in drink?—Yes.

1120. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are you a total abstainer yourself?—Yes.

1121. Mr. *Gregson.*] How many years have you been so?—Eighteen years; —I never was intemperate myself.

1122. Sir *G. Grey.*] Have those men signed any petition in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday?—No; I have not asked them to sign such a petition. A good many of the men are Roman-catholics, and their views upon the Sabbath question are very lax. If I were to ask them to sign a petition I have no doubt they would.

1123. They would do so to please you?—Perhaps they might.

1124. *Chairman.*] Do you find that those persons who are lax in their observance of the Sabbath, are more drunken than others who do not profess to be so?—I should say so. I have invariably found that persons who have a less moral view of the Sabbath, are generally lax in their other habits.

1125. Do

1125. Do those Irish labourers whom you refer to, as being Roman-catholics, work under you?—Yes.

1126. Is it within your experience that the Irish are more drunken than the English?—I should rather think that they were, if I was to venture an opinion.

1127. Is drunkenness a vice in the business with which you are most acquainted?—Drunkenness is very prevalent, but it is nothing like so prevalent as it was 25 years ago.

1128. Can you give any reason why the habits of the people whom you know are so changed?—I believe one very powerful influence is the associations which they have formed for mutual protection.

1129. Mr. *Gregson.*] Protection from what?—They are a sort of benefit societies.

1130. *Chairman.* Are they anything in the nature of life insurance societies?—Something like that. I belong to a society, and if I met with an accident, which disabled me from work, I should receive 100 *l.* from the funds; if I were killed my wife would have 58 *l.*

1131. You think the money is put by in those societies, which was formerly spent in drink?—Yes.

1132. It is the facility of going to the public-house, which you think tempts the men to drink?—Not altogether.

1133. You are aware that there is a difference between what is called a licensed public-house and a beerhouse?—Yes.

1134. Supposing they could all get a licence from the Excise, upon paying a heavy duty upon it, perhaps, and supposing all the houses to be closed on Sunday, you would not expect that there would be more drunkenness than there is now?—I should not like to give an opinion upon that subject.

1135. You think that the drunkenness is on Sunday and Saturday night?—Yes.

1136. Because people have more leisure and more money?—Yes.

1137. Do you believe that many people, as you have heard it stated, if the temptation was not in their way, would not drink on Sunday?—I believe not.

1138. Mr. *Gregson.*] When are the houses closed on Saturday night generally in your district?—About 12 o'clock in the evening.

1139. Would you limit that time to 11 or 10 o'clock?—I think it would be much better if they were closed at 10 o'clock.

1140. I think you have said that you would recommend them to be entirely closed on Sunday, unless they were opened for two hours, from one to three?—I said if they were opened for merely two hours, it would be a great deal better than at the present time under the present system.

1141. Another witness has suggested that they should be opened from two to three, and again from eight to nine; would not that be better?—I object to their being open upon the Sabbath at all; I think their influence is bad.

1142. If they are to be open two hours on Sunday, would it not be better that they should be open from one to two and from eight to nine?—If they are to be open, I should prefer them to be open from one to three, and not open in the evening at all.

Martis, 30° die Maii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. C. P. Villiers.	Mr. Gregson.
Mr. W. Brown.	Lord Dudley Stuart.
Sir George Goodman.	Mr. Packe.
Sir George Grey.	Mr. Ker Seymer.
Sir John Pakington.	

THE RIGHT HON. C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Balfour*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

1143. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you hold some appointment in this House?—I am Messenger to the Honourable E. P. Bouverie.

1144. Have you been engaged in many inquiries of late years into the habits of the working classes?—For between 14 and 15 years I have been engaged in connexion with the National Temperance Society, the New British and Foreign Temperance Society, and the Statistical Society, and, on behalf of several private individuals, in making investigations into the social and moral condition of the working classes of London, and various other parts; Pavenham in Bedfordshire, and Luton in Bedfordshire. I made a tour in France among 6,000 British labourers, who were working on the railway, from Havre de Grace to Rouen.

1145. Have those investigations enabled you to become acquainted with the places of public resort, and the places to which the working classes go to amuse themselves after their work?—Yes; I have directed my attention particularly to the social and moral habits of the working classes.

1146. Have you been led to inquire into the mode in which public-houses and other places of public entertainment are conducted?—Yes.

1147. Do you find that the working classes resort to those places habitually?—Yes, generally on Saturday evenings, and on some occasions on Sunday evenings and Monday evenings. After Monday I have generally found that their resources have been diminished, and they have not been enabled to continue their resort to those places. There are some who visit those places later in the week.

1148. To what places are you referring as those to which the working classes habitually resort on those days when they have the most leisure?—Concerts, and judge and jury clubs, which are held at the drinking houses; when I speak of drinking-houses, I include in that term both public-houses and beer-shops.

1149. Do you find that the working classes resort to the public-houses themselves?—Yes.

1150. Without any of that sort of attraction which you have mentioned?—Yes, on Saturday night; the principal attraction to the public-houses in the building districts I have found, and in many other districts, has been the payment of the wages at the public-houses, which I have always in every case found to have a very demoralising and injurious tendency.

1151. You alluded to a particular district in which the wages are usually paid at the public-houses; what are those districts?—Now, where there is a great amount of building carried on, the small builders and masters mostly pay their men at public-houses; I was engaged particularly on that subject some years ago to get up signatures from employers to the appended document, so that I have paid particular attention to it.

ARTIFICIAL AND COMPULSORY DRINKING USAGES.

WE, subscribers, believe that the drinking usages of the factories and workshops, such as compulsory drink-fines and footings, lead to extensive evil.

That their imperious character is contrary to all true liberty.

That such an extensive system of cruelty and injustice is not kept up, so far as we know, in the social customs of any other nation.

That by means of this compulsory or artificial system, young men are often, in a manner, forced to become drunkards.

That

That drunkards who would wish to reform, are by these domineering and arbitrary customs, prevented from putting their good resolutions in force.

That hereby a dangerous and mischievous tax of many millions a year, is imposed by workmen on one another, without consent of the parties paying.

We consider the following penalties, instituted to keep up the drinking and paying of fines and footings, to be of the most revolting and oppressive description, viz., sending men to Coventry, putting them out of the pale of goodwill and friendship, and kind assistance of brother workmen; inhumanly refusing to teach apprentices work, their drink footings being unpaid; constraining starving men, who from sickness, or otherwise, have been out of work, or indeed any parties whatever, to pay journeyman's drink footings, by threats and other means; secreting men's clothes, and dirtying, tarring, cutting, and destroying them; gapping, notching, and otherwise injuring tools, or sending both to the pawnbroker's shop, and in a felonious manner pledging them for the regulation drink fines; forming conspiracies to force out of workshops and factories men who decline to pay footings; maltreating respectable individuals on this account, by taunts, mockings, a variety of insults, blows and blood, and other injuries.

We further express our disapprobation of any pecuniary connexion between the foremen of factories and workshops and individuals who keep public-houses, or foremen keeping public-houses themselves; and all bribing of foremen and others by drink, to bestow work.

We object to payment of wages in public-houses, as of the most extensively ruinous tendency; and also to linking or grouping men together with large bank notes or gold, leaving them to procure change where they can. And, in conclusion, we bear testimony from our constant and painful experience, to the injurious consequences of the ceaseless and unmeaning connexion that has been constituted in this country between business and strong drink, in a variety of ways, far too multifarious to be here enumerated.

1152. You state that a large proportion of the working classes are generally found in what you style drinking houses on Saturday and Sunday evening, and that they are attracted there either by particular entertainments, or by the practice of their wages being paid there, and also to habits of drinking?—Yes.

1153. Now, supposing the people go to the public-houses, do you find that it is very much a habit amongst them to drink to excess at those houses?—Yes.

1154. That is the consequence which you have observed amongst them?—Yes. The only places which I have observed have been regulated in any way, and with respect to which I wish to give some credit to the parties concerned, are the Odd Fellows' lodges. I have found some of them better regulated as to the disorderly conduct of the parties visiting them, during lodge hours. I became an Odd Fellow myself some 25 years ago, and I am enabled, from having visited them (I have not visited them for the last 18 years), to state, from my own observation, that their rules and regulations keep them more orderly than the other places.

1155. With respect to the other places where you found the working people, are those places where they drink?—Yes.

1156. But the Odd Fellows' lodges are subject to certain regulations which prevent any great excess taking place?—Yes, during lodge hours.

1157. Are the Committee to understand you to say, that in an ordinary public-house, and in the other places which you have named, there is no interference on the part of any persons to prevent the people drinking to excess?—I never witnessed the slightest interference till the parties have been thrust out of doors, and given into the charge of the police, if they were noisy. During the time I was on the Seven Dials' district for four years, I have taken many men and women home, to prevent them being taken by the police: they were thrust out of these houses in a state of intoxication.

1158. The object of the publican is to sell as much liquor as possible, and there is nothing ever done to check the people indulging to the utmost extent, is there?—No, with very few exceptions.

1159. Does the excessive drinking take place late in the evening?—Yes.

1160. It is not for the purpose of refreshment, or necessary entertainment, but it is a vicious habit which the people have acquired, and they are allowed to indulge in it?—Yes.

1161. Does your former observation and experience lead you to think that it is extremely prejudicial to them?—Yes, in a moral, social, and physical point of view.

1162. Have you observed that in the public-houses, where there are extraordinary attractions, such as those which you have named, the people remain there to drink, and drink as much as in other places where there are not these

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

amusements?—They drink more at concerts, and judge and jury clubs, and those places. The concerts vary; some of them are in character, and the public drink more than they do at other places, because of the attractions. At some places the visitors pay a certain sum as they go in at the door, and take it out in drink.

1163. But those concerts, or whatever the entertainments may be, are provided by the publicans to induce the people to drink?—Yes.

1164. Have you observed, by attending those places, that the people are so induced to drink?—Yes.

1165. They are drawn thither by the amusements, that is to say, by the music or by the entertainments, whatever they are, and they are only tempted to drink from drink being provided?—They are tempted to drink. The proprietor considers his attractions as drawers to both male and female customers.

1166. Do you infer from your experience that there is a taste amongst the working people for these sorts of amusements, and that they would prefer them to the temptation of a public-house, for the mere purpose of drinking, if the two could be separated?—I do. I will give my reasons. I have conducted five or six very large festivals in connexion with societies which do not allow any strong drinks at their amusements. One festival was held two years ago for two days at the Surrey Zoological Gardens, and we had, I think, 27,000 persons in the two days. We hired the gardens, and it was a proviso that no strong drinks were to be allowed outside of what is called the Tap, which a man rented, and we made an arrangement with him that he should not commence selling anything of an intoxicating nature until after a certain period. At those two days' festival we had all sorts of fireworks, a band of music, dancing on the green, and other amusements of a harmless nature. They were principally attended by the working classes, and during those two days there was not an individual in a state of inebriation, although we did not break up till 10 at night. And the manager of the Surrey Zoological Gardens wrote a letter the next day to the committee, and said that even a flower had not been displaced.

1167. There was no riot or disorder of any kind?—Not the slightest; also at Bruce Park, Tottenham, I conducted a festival for three consecutive years; we admitted the people at 2*d.* each, and allowed no intoxicating drinks; the park was lent to the society by Arthur Hill, Esq., the proprietor; and so pleased was he, that he expressed his approbation to the committee for the orderly conduct of the people. We had all sorts of people there, excavators and agricultural labourers, and there was not the slightest irregularity or indecorous conduct. Also at Moor Park, which is the seat of Lord Robert Grosvenor, I had the management of a very large festival. There was a festival held at the Zoological Gardens at Bristol, which I attended, but did not conduct; there was not a drain of strong drinks, unless it was brought in slily by the parties in their baskets, consumed to our knowledge that day, and not an individual was in a state of intoxication. I may mention that the whole of these festivals realised a large profit, after paying the very great expenses, to the society.

1168. Mr. *Brown.*] Did you allow ginger-beer and lemonade to be sold?—Yes; we allowed nothing of an intoxicating nature; we allowed tea and coffee at a cheap rate, ginger-beer and lemonade,

1169. *Chairman.*] Is your inference that the good conduct of the people was very much owing to the absence of the temptation to drink intoxicating liquors?—Most assuredly.

1170. You think you could not have spoken of the mode in which the festivals were conducted as you have done, if there had been public-houses on the spot, or if there had been intoxicating drink allowed?—Most assuredly not. I will give the Committee a very powerful fact as respects the Tottenham festival: into a lane outside of Tottenham Park a publican sent some barrels of beer, which we had no power to prevent his selling, and there was a scene extremely disgraceful; indeed it was so bad, that we had to call in the aid of the police to drive the parties away.

1171. Were they the same people as those who had been at the Tottenham festival?—No.

1172. Are the Committee to understand from you that you believe these amusements could be provided for the people without mischief if intoxicating liquors were

were not sold on the spot?—Yes, I think so, from my knowledge of the working classes, which is rather extensive; I have had great pleasure in mixing with them all my lifetime: I have been employed in the establishment of Mechanics' Institutions, and so on, in lecturing, and visiting in the lowest parts, and my opinion is, that amongst the working classes there is a growing desire for vocal and instrumental music, and also for pictorial representations, such as dissolving views. Although I believe I have singular opinions on this subject, the taste for theatrical amusements has degenerated; such as the representation of the plays of Shakspeare; I believe the taste of the working classes for that has degenerated.

1173. Have you ever known the working people care for such dramatic representations?—Yes; I believe I can say from recollection, when Kean and Kemble were playing, the "gods," as they were termed, were the judges of good theatrical amusements.

1174. Are you speaking now from any recent experience that there has been some evidence to the contrary, that the taste is again increasing very much amongst the people for theatrical representations?—I believe the taste for theatrical representations was degenerating for a certain time, but I believe Charles Kean is raising that taste among the working classes; and I believe the working classes have a growing appreciation for vocal and instrumental music; I think so, from their attending at those places.

1175. How do you apply the expression "degenerating;" do you mean that the taste of the lower orders for dramatic representations is not so elevated as it used to be?—Yes. I cannot exactly fix the date; but I think till within about five years ago the taste was for melo-dramatic pieces, and such pieces as "Tom and Jerry," "Jack Sheppard;" I think "Tom and Jerry," and all that sort of theatrical representation, have had a very injurious effect.

1176. Have you observed recently some improvement in the taste of the working people with respect to dramatic representations?—I think so; I do not visit theatres now.

1177. Do you find the people less gross and sensual than they were in their habits and tastes?—I think they are, from what I have observed. Perhaps the Committee will allow me to mention, that in the survey that I had to make in St. George's-in-the-East, the inquiry was classified under four heads—religious, moral, miscellaneous, and immoral books and pictures. I am very happy to say that, in a survey which extended over, I think, above 2,000 houses, I did not find three immoral books or immoral pictures.

1178. Sir *G. Grey.*] Was that survey made for the Statistical Society?—Yes.

1179. Mr. *Brown.*] What was the date of the survey?—1845; it was tabulated by the late Mr. Fletcher, and it was under his superintendence that I made the survey

1180. *Chairman.*] Over what population did that survey extend?—The total population of men, women, and children included in that survey, was 7,711, comprising 1,204 houses and 1,954 families; we were confined expressly to the poor and working classes; they varied, I should mention, from mendicants and unfortunate females who, we ascertained, on the average earned 10*s.* a week, to gun-smiths who earned on the average about 45*s.* per week.

1181. In fact amongst the working people you have observed some of every grade, from those earning a rate of wages above 2*l.* a week to those earning as low as 10*s.* a week?—Yes.

1182. With respect to their habits of drinking, did you find that habit very prevalent amongst all classes, or was it confined to the very lowest?—It varied: unfortunately some of the gun-smiths, who earned 45*s.* a week, were in a worse state, and their homes were in more social disorder than some of the labourers who earned 19*s.* 1*d.* The most orderly and well-conducted persons in a social point of view whom we found in that survey were the German sugar-bakers.

1183. With respect to the disorderly people who were earning high wages, were they drunken?—Yes.

1184. Do you believe that a great portion of their wages was spent in drink?—Yes, I am certain of it; one thing I ascertained was the amount of their wages, and how often they took animal food.

1185. That is to say, you classified the persons according to their habits of living?—Yes; the size of their rooms, the number of their families, and the number of times they took animal food in the week. For my own information,

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

I ascertained, though it did not form a part of my inquiry, how many times they took strong drinks, and I found it amounted to three times as many as they had animal food; also I found the children in a state of partial want, both for good food, clothing, and schooling.

1186. Am I to understand that amongst all these people whose habits you inquired into, wherever you found them disorderly, and in a state of want, you found their habits were those of drunkenness?—Yes.

1187. And where the people were living in an orderly state, the children being educated, though their wages were less, you found that they were people of temperate habits?—Yes.

1188. Did you find a very great number of public-houses in St. George's-in-the-East?—Very large; I did not take the public-houses; from Cannon-street Road, the survey I had to make, formed a kind of a square, and where the people were living in great numbers, there was the largest amount of beer-shops; but in the large streets there were gin palaces and public-houses.

1189. Did you find a great number of gin palaces and public-houses clustered together?—Yes.

1190. Were there more public-houses than the requirements of the neighbourhood rendered necessary?—Yes, in all that district.

1191. Did you find any of those places open on the Sunday evening?—I did not visit the public-houses on the Sunday evening.

1192. You did not observe how they were filled, or at what hours they were filled?—No; the only places I have visited on the Sunday evening were some of the houses in the City-road; for instance, the Eagle Tavern in the City-road.

1193. Have you made similar observations with respect to any other part of the metropolis?—Yes; I have made a survey of a place called the Rookery, in St. Giles's, in connection with Colonel Sykes and Dr. Guy, in the latter part of 1847, and the beginning of 1848; the Rookery is a street running behind New Oxford-street; I suppose it is in existence now, and it is one of the most deplorable places in London: the largest number which we found occupying one room was 23, composed of six families; there was not what we may call a bed in many of the rooms, nor a bedstead, nor a table, nor what might be termed a chair; the only accommodation they had was two planks to lay across two broken chairs, so that they could not slip.

1194. Were those chiefly Irish people?—Nearly all the people living on that side of the street were from the county of Cork.

1195. Were they very drunken in their habits?—They were.

1196. You inquired into their habits?—Yes.

1197. Did you ascertain what their wages were generally?—We could not well get at that.

1198. What was their employment?—It varied; there were street beggars, thieves, and the commonest and lowest sort of street prostitutes.

1199. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you directly connect their wretched condition with the habit of drinking?—Most assuredly; I omitted to speak of one fact which Colonel Sykes rather corrected me for, namely, that the only clean and well-furnished room which we found on that side of the street belonged to a man who had not taken strong drinks for years.

1200. *Chairman.*] You describe the people in the Rookery as people of criminal habits?—Some of them.

1201. You did not inquire what had led them into their mode of life, or whether it was connected with the habit of drinking?—I am well acquainted with that district, for I was a temperance missionary in that district for between three and four years; I have visited all parts of the district at all hours of the day and night; I know many of the parties, and they know me from my having visited them, and I have no hesitation in saying that I should not go beyond the mark at all if I stated that half have brought themselves to their present degraded state through drink.

1202. Do you know whether these are the people who frequent the public-houses late at night, or do you think you would have observed them?—No, I could not say that; there are several houses about, which are frequented late at night.

1203. Are those characters known to the publicans or the police?—The publicans know them, and the police know them.

1204. Do

1204. Do you mean to say that a publican would know them to be bad characters if they came into his public-house?—Yes, in that particular district.

1205. Do you know whether the publicans remove those people, and desire them to quit their houses after they have stayed some time, from their being bad characters?—No; during the time that I was a temperance missionary in the St. Giles's district, which is a very bad district indeed, I have never known the publicans remove people. I have known women go in with children in their arms, and get drunk at the bar, and I have seen them come out, and fall down with those children.

1206. I think you have referred to some house where after a certain hour the publican does remove the people?—Yes, at 12 o'clock, when he is fearful of the police if he does not close at the proper time.

1207. You have often observed the people drinking in those houses to excess; do you know whether it is anybody's duty to remove those people?—It is nobody's duty, as long as they have money to spend.

1208. You do not believe it is the policeman's duty to visit those houses?—No, he dare not; the police know me very well; and on three or four occasions when I was in the St. Giles's district, I have seen respectable persons taken into public-houses in a partial state of inebriation by men whom I knew, and the police knew, to be common thieves. I have gone into the public-houses, and tapped the men on the shoulders, and have said, "I want to speak to you outside." I have brought them out, and when I have brought them out, the policemen have said to the men, "Now you leave these gentlemen alone."

1209. The police have no right to enter?—Not unless there is a disturbance.

1210. A publican may, in fact, be harbouring bad characters to any extent, and people may be drinking to excess in his house, but the policeman has no right to enter, and it is nobody's duty to remind the publican that he should remove those characters?—It is nobody's duty at all.

1211. Do you believe, from what you have observed of the way in which the people resort to these houses with impunity, that it would be attended with any advantage if there were persons appointed purposely to inspect and to supervise those houses?—Yes, I do; I think, independently of the new police, that a well-organised inspection of all the drinking houses in the kingdom would have a very powerful tendency.

1212. Do you think it would make the publicans more careful with respect to the conduct of their houses, and that the people who resort to those houses would abstain from going there if they knew that inspectors might visit the houses at any time?—I think it would have more effect on the publicans keeping the houses than on the visitors.

1213. Do you know anything of the particular mode in which the publicans conduct their houses beyond what you have observed by going into them?—Some of the publicans, I know, are very desirous of an alteration; some, I know, are desirous that they should have more time on Sunday.

1214. Do you know whether they apprehend anything from the police, or whether they apprehend any informations being laid against them for harbouring bad characters, or allowing drunkenness to take place in their houses?—They are always fearful of that.

1215. Who do they apprehend will lay informations against them?—The police.

1216. If the police come in?—Yes. The police may hear a noise in a public-house, and demand admission after the doors are closed, to see whether the house is closed, or on Sunday; they are always fearful of that.

1217. Is it within your knowledge, that the keepers of many of the public-houses either disregard the tenor of the license or the law, and persevere in that course for years together?—I have no doubt there are such persons. I do not know any individual cases, with the exception of one or two in the neighbourhood of Drury-lane, where they evaded in a most extraordinary manner the vigilance of the police in selling strong drinks on Sunday morning.

1218. Where was the house in Drury-lane?—In Charles-street, Drury-lane. I ascertained that they had placed spies in such an admirable way that a signal was given whenever the police appeared; but they were detected at last.

1219. Will you state what you consider to be the evils of the saloons, or dancing places and concerts, which you say are innocent in themselves, and to which people resort occasionally without any mischief; what is the mischief or

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

danger of their being connected with public-houses?—Because of the drink which is sold being of an intoxicating nature.

1220. Have you any experience of disorder and vice following from the two being combined?—Yes. In St. George's in the East, in the neighbourhood of the Docks, in Seven Dials, and in St. Giles's also, I have gone into those places, and seen in them common street-walkers.

1221. To what sort of places do you refer?—To the concerts at public-houses.

1222. You found in the places where music was going on, there were women of the town?—Yes; there are attractions for young persons to go into those places. I do not suppose the females have any intention of doing wrong when they go, but they are plied with drink.

1223. They are induced to go because there is music?—Yes.

1224. When they are in the place, they are tempted with drink?—Yes, and seduced; there are always facilities in the lowest brothels in those districts which I could point out in the four quarters of London.

1225. I understand you to say, that innocent women go in, and are tempted by the music?—Yes, they are taken there by what are called their sweethearts.

1226. Is this going on to a great extent in the district which you have surveyed?—Yes, at the east end of London, Whitechapel, St. George's-in-the-East, and the other side of the water, the south part of London.

1227. Are there any particular places where there are extensive arrangements made for those purposes?—Yes; out in the east of London there are large places, especially about the docks; but they are principally used by unfortunate women with the sailors.

1228. Are those women in connexion with the keepers of the public-houses?—Not to my knowledge; they live in the neighbourhood.

1229. Are there any places upon a great scale where there is music, and singing, and dancing, and where people are tempted by drink?—All public-houses which have singing and dancing sell drink. The most detrimental place which I know, as far as females are concerned, is the Eagle Tavern in the City-road.

1230. Is that a very large place?—Yes; there is a very large theatre; I visited it on a Sunday, and the scene I could not possibly describe to the Committee.

1231. Is drink sold at the Eagle?—Yes.

1232. Are there gardens as well?—Yes; there are gardens and statues round the gardens, and everything to attract; there is a large theatre, and there are theatrical representations during the week.

1233. At what o'clock do the dramatic representations begin?—They begin about eight o'clock in the evening; there are no theatrical representations on Sunday.

1234. What class of people frequent the Eagle?—All sorts.

1235. Young people of both sexes?—Yes; I have seen the women there whom I have recognised next day as common street-walkers.

1236. What is the price of admission?—The admission, I think, is 6 *d.* now, or 1 *s.*

1237. May you have drink for that?—I am not sure about that.

1238. Lord *D. Stewart.*] What did you mean when you said there was a scene which it was impossible to describe to the Committee?—I meant in the extent of the attractions. The late proprietor is dead; he made a very large sum of money by it.

1239. *Chairman.*] Is the Eagle Tavern open on week-days, as well as on Sundays?—Yes. I am satisfied, from experience, that it is, as far as young females are concerned, one of the most demoralising, if not the most demoralising place in London.

1240. These scenes of demoralisation begin late in the evening?—Yes.

1241. After the dramatic representation is over, and after the drink has been plied pretty freely?—Yes. The gardens are open with alcoves, and boxes on each side, and lads and young persons are taken in there, and plied with drink.

1242. Are these places without lights?—They are not exactly without lights.

1243. Is there any policeman walking about to see that these practices do not take place?—There are one or two policemen to keep the public in order; there may be more.

1244. But

1244. But the police have only the right to interfere in case of a disorder or a riot?—Nothing more.

1245. Has this place obtained a licence from the magistrate?—Yes; a spirit license and a music license.

1246. This house is open on Sunday evening without the dramatic representation?—Every evening there is a representation; but on Sunday evening there is no representation.

1247. Sir *G. Grey.*] What is the attraction on Sunday evening, if there is no dramatic representation?—Tea-gardens.

1248. *Chairman.*] Is there any music on Sunday?—I did not hear any on the Sunday I was there.

1249. Have you been there on a week-day?—Yes.

1250. Were there more people there on the week-day or on Sunday?—On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday; the early part of the week.

1251. Do you know how long this house has been there?—Many years.

1252. Has it ever been informed against?—I do not know that it has.

1253. Do you know whether drunkenness takes place?—No doubt; I have seen gentlemen come out of there drunk.

1254. The Eagle Tavern is only one of several houses, but it happens to be upon a very large scale?—A very large scale. There are the Manor Gardens near Camberwell, and the Cremorne Gardens, which I look upon as quite of the same description.

1255. Have those places a licence to sell spirits, as well as a music and dancing license?—Yes.

1256. Does the same bench of magistrates grant both licences?—Yes.

1257. Has the proprietor of the Cremorne Gardens a licence, like a publican, to sell spirits?—Yes.

1258. Have you ever visited Cremorne in the evening?—Never.

1259. You have no information respecting the mode in which it is conducted in the evening?—No.

1260. Have you heard any objections raised to those houses when an application has been made to renew the licence?—No. I never have attended the bench of magistrates upon those occasions.

1261. Do you know whether there is any person who considers it his business or duty to inform against them?—No.

1262. Do you know to whom the Eagle Tavern belongs?—A man of the name of Conquest is the lessee now of the Eagle Tavern.

1263. Is he on the spot?—Yes.

1264. Is he a man of property?—Yes, I suppose he is.

1265. To whom does the ground belong?—I do not know, I am sure, whether it belonged to the previous owner, the man that is recently dead; he was there for many years. There is another place to which I paid a visit some years ago—the Coalhole Tavern, in the Strand; that is rather of a higher grade; the working classes do not go there. I visited it in company with some gentlemen, who wished to see the low parts of London. We went there, and certainly the singing which I heard there I should not have expected to have heard, if I had been accustomed to go to such places, in a common brothel; it was no double meaning, but plain out.

1266. You mean that they were singing obscene songs?—Yes.

1267. Was this the amusement provided every night?—It was that night, and I was told it was the same nearly every night.

1268. You say you went with some gentlemen?—I went just to show them the place.

1269. In what class of life are the persons who habitually resort to those places?—Some of them I recognised as tradesmen in the neighbourhood.

1270. Is drink sold to the people while these songs are being sung?—Yes. We visited another place, which has since, I am happy to say, gone completely out, called the "Shades," in the Adelphi; and there was a scene which I could not possibly describe; in fact, the whole of us were solicited to retire if we pleased.

1271. With women?—With women; I called the proprietor of the place, and said we wished to be alone: it was a very singular place, constructed under the arches of the Adelphi.

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

1272. Was it a licensed house?—It was a licensed house; it was called he "Shades."

1273. What other amusements were provided?—Nothing but singing and reciting; but it has since gone by; it has been demolished.

1274. Do you know how long that lasted?—I do not know.

1275. Was the licence refused eventually?—I rather think eventually it was.

1276. Are there still the same sort of houses, do you believe, about London?—Yes; the "Coalhole" exists at the present moment.

1277. I presume it answers very well to the publican, inasmuch as with these amusements he sells a good deal of liquor?—Yes, to the proprietor of it, or the lessee, who was the great man at the judge and jury club in Bow-street, of the name of Nicholson, where he made a good thing of it, and he will make a good thing of this.

1278. The judge and jury club is only for the purpose of selling drink, is it?—Nothing more.

1279. As far as the convenience or good of the people is concerned, you do not think it is necessary to connect the sale of drink with amusements; and in your opinion the people would be tempted to go to the amusements without drink?—A different class of persons use those two last places I have named: gentlemen who come up to see life, and so on, go to those places; in fact, in the streets I have recognised people in high life who have gone. When I have been very late at night outside the house in Bow-street, and also outside the Coalhole, I have seen gentlemen come out in a state of intoxication, and of course they have been very shortly picked up by those ladies that walk the Strand and Covent Garden.

1280. But nobody would continue going into those places without ordering something to drink?—No.

1281. I understood you to consider that there is an objection to these amusements being connected with the sale of intoxicating liquors?—Yes, a great objection, I think.

1282. You think there is no objection to music or dancing, being things innocent in themselves, if they are kept separate from public-houses?—No; the 6,000 British railway labourers I went amongst in France, I found mixed up drink with the concerts and dancing amusements of the French with great avidity. I spent three months among them on the railway from Havre to Rouen, and also up as far as Paris. I have been in some of their largest French festivals. It was the anniversary of the Revolution of 1830, which was kept in what they call the Champs Elysées, the Gardens of Pleasure, and to my gratification not a single Frenchman did I find during the whole time in a state of intoxication. But unfortunately I have seen my own countrymen, the railway labourers, bricklayers, and carpenters, in the French prisons for intoxication, and no other crime.

1283. You have seen them in a state of intoxication at places where the French were amusing themselves without getting intoxicated?—I have visited the dancing places; my object was not only to establish Temperance Societies, but to endeavour to ascertain the social character of the two people.

1284. I think I understood you to say that there were 6,000 English labourers employed on that railway?—Six thousand, English, Irish, and Scotch.

1285. You went amongst them to establish Temperance Societies?—Yes.

1286. During your residence there for three months, you observed the different habits of your own countrymen and the French?—Yes.

1287. Had the French equal access as the English to the public-houses and places where intoxicating drinks were sold?—Yes.

1288. You found that there were places open for innocent recreation, such as dancing and music, and that the French resorted to those places, and did not appear there in a state of drunkenness?—Yes; I made it a point to visit those places at Havre and at Rouen.

1289. Sir *G. Grey.*] What were the habits of the 6,000 Englishmen; were they equally disposed to drink as they are here?—Yes, quite; the French authorities told Messrs. Brassey and Mackenzie that, although they wanted the railway from Havre, they would rather dispense with it than have our men there with their bad habits.

1290. Had

337

Mr. J. Balfour.

30 May 1845.

1290. Had the men retained their habits of drunkenness, although they had the opportunity of going to places of innocent amusement, without being exposed to the temptation to drink?—They went on in the same way that they do here.

1291. Although the same temptation did not exist by those innocent amusements being connected with drinking-houses?—They did not visit those places.

1292. *Chairman.*] They took the habits over to France which they had in England?—Yes.

1293. The places of public resort were familiar to the Frenchmen, but were new to the English labourers?—They did not visit them.

1294. They did not know how to appreciate them, I presume?—No. In every part of the line there were temporary wooden houses erected for the labourers, and there was a large café. There were a great many French labourers worked on the line, as well as English. I believe there were two Frenchmen to one Englishman; and at night the French would go and take their evening meal, and then go to their concert or their ball. The Englishman would go to his drinking habits at the café, and have his brandy and light wines, and the beer which was sent over from this country. They could not drink the French beer.

1295. Did you go into any of those places to which the French resort to amuse themselves?—I did.

1296. Was there any one present to superintend and preserve order?—I used to see a person in a singular kind of cocked hat, who I was told was one of the municipal authorities. I saw no disorder.

1297. Have you any doubt that the man was there for the further purpose of preserving order?—I was told he was. I could not speak French, and all the information I got was given me by an intelligent Frenchman, who spoke the English language.

1298. Had you any success with your countrymen in inducing them to join Temperance Societies, and abstaining from these bad habits?—I had.

1299. Did you encourage them to go to those places of amusement?—I did encourage them to go to those places of amusement. I recommended them rather to go to the French theatres, in preference to indulging in the demoralizing habit of drinking.

1300. Your efforts were attended with some success?—In some cases.

1301. Would you recommend the same experiment in this country; would you encourage the people to go to places of amusement with a view to inducing them to avoid the public-house?—I would; I think it is a good thing to have parks for the people, and I think if large concerts could be got up at a cheap rate, it would be attended with benefit; the experiment has been tried at Leeds; for when I was at Leeds I observed that a society, called the "Rational Recreation Society," had formed themselves for the express purpose of providing entertainments and amusements of a rational and reasonable nature for the people; they had cheap concerts; they had a band on the moor two or three times a week, and the working classes to a certain extent (I do not know to what extent) attended. When I was there during the Recess, I was very much struck with the attention of the working classes, in fustian jackets, and so on, at the concerts, and also to the band on the moor.

1302. Do they exclude the sale of intoxicating liquors at those places?—Yes. The concerts are held at the music hall or the town hall; I certainly think if such places could be established, with good vocal and instrumental music, and pictorial exhibitions, and dissolving views, at a cheap rate, even if a sum of money was voted annually out of the funds of the nation towards it, that in the end, I think, in the saving of poor-rates, and the expenses of prosecuting prisoners, and so on, there would be an economy.

1303. Are the Committee to infer that it is your opinion that the habit of intoxication, or the desire for drink, is not so inveterate among the English but that they might be reclaimed if they had places of resort at particular times?—Yes. One of the great difficulties with our society is to find such places; it is no matter how bad a man is, we, in many cases, are successful in rescuing him; but the greatest difficulty we find is with the females; for every 50 reformed inveterate drunkards that I know (and my knowledge is rather extensive on that subject), I am grieved to say I do not know five reformed women.

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

1304. Do you mean women who were drunken in their habits?—Whom we succeed in reforming.

1305 Is it not the fact, generally speaking, that men are more drunken than women?—Yes; but when a woman falls in that way, she is seldom or ever recovered.

1306. Have you observed cases in which the man has been drunken when his wife has been sober?—Yes; the greatest amount of drunkenness is in the male population.

1307. When the woman is an inveterate drunkard, you say she is seldom reclaimed?—I do not know, in my experience of 16 years, 10; there are a greater number of drunken men than drunken women.

1308. You consider it has been the great evil hitherto in your system, that there have not been more places of recreation for the working classes?—Yes.

1309. You think the establishment of such places would be more immediately effective than any legislation for the purpose of closing the public-houses entirely?—I think we want good wholesome recreation for the working classes; I think there is a defect in taking recreation on the Sunday; they feel a great natural desire to breathe the country air: now there are numbers go down to the place called Greenford Green; flat-bottomed barges are fitted up on the canal, and are drawn on the Sunday morning, and come back on Sunday evening, at 6*d.* per head. Some thousands go down, and take their articles of consumption with them; I have taken great pains to observe the sort of parties who go; they are working people and mechanics, who only get out on that day; it is a recreation to them, and I think if any plan could be adopted for them to have half a Monday or Saturday, either monthly or fortnightly as a holiday, it would work well, so as to give the people an opportunity to go out of town.

1310. As you observe that they take their provisions, and probably all the refreshments which they require with them, you do not believe that they would be inconvenienced by the public-houses being closed the greater part of Sunday?—No.

1311. You would leave the public-houses open for a certain number of hours to enable those who require refreshments to take to their own house, to do so, but you object to the public-houses being open on Sunday evening?—I should greatly prefer the public-houses being closed altogether; but my fear of the objections to that measure leads me to recommend that the public-houses should be closed, with the exception of from one to two o'clock, or certain hours, so that the people may get the beer which they conceive requisite for their meals; I would have those hours as soon after church service was over as possible. The closing the public-houses up to one o'clock on Sunday has had a very good tendency there can be no doubt.

1312. You have actually observed that from knowing what the state of things was in this town before closing the houses, and observing what it has been since?—Yes; I have seen men in Broadway, Westminster, and in Seven Dials, go out for a morning walk; it was a very common thing for those men to get into public-houses to have a morning draught; they got treating one another, and naturally they got intoxicated, and were rolling through the streets while the respectable portion of the community were going to the various places of worship.

1313. They got drunk by the middle of the day?—Yes, they got drunk by the middle of the day.

1314. You never witness such scenes as those now that the public-houses are closed on Sunday morning?—No.

1315. You do see drunkenness on Sunday night still?—Yes.

1316. You believe that drunkenness could be prevented if the houses were closed on Sunday?—Yes; last Sunday afternoon and last Sunday evening, in New Church-street, Edgeware-road, I saw mechanics, working men and two women, in a state of inebriation.

1317. From your knowledge of the habits of the working classes, would you say that it is a very great temptation indeed to find a public-house open when they have leisure and money?—Yes, a very great temptation.

1318. You do not think it is necessary for their convenience and health that the public-houses should be open except for the few hours you have named?—No,

No, not as it respects health. I have not touched stimulating drinks for 16 years.

1319. You are a total abstainer?—Yes; I have not tasted anything of that sort for 16 years. I have tried the three systems. I was a sea-going lad at 15, and then I tried hard drinking; after that, I tried moderate drinking, and then total abstinence. I have not wanted the doctors for 16 years; before that time I was often wanting them.

1320. What do you believe to be the feeling and opinion of the people themselves respecting public-houses being open; would it be deemed a hardship if the public-houses of the metropolis were closed on Sunday?—Some of the people that we call the "wet ones" would deem it a hardship, but they would soon get over it.

1321. You do not believe they would petition the House to keep the public-houses open if there were a prospect of their being closed?—I do not think they would.

1322. Not voluntarily?—No.

1323. Have you observed the other places of resort where people go for refreshment, as to the mode in which they are conducted, such as coffee-shops?—I cannot call to recollection how long the coffee-shops have been established. I have paid attention to coffee-houses for the last 25 years. I visited coffee-houses of all grades from the very first. There is one which I conceive to be the first coffee-house in the metropolis. The man who established it has retired, having made a very good fortune; he established it with very great spirit. He was a tailor, and he undertook to supply the working classes with a good meal and the best coffee; I say a good meal, because some of the coffee-shops sell very bad articles, not coffee at all, nor tea at all. I have tasted it myself, in order to see what it was; but this man wanted to sell a good article, and to supply a good fund of literature. If you go into that house, you can procure a good cup of coffee and a loaf of bread and butter for 3½ *d.* You can have a plate of meat for 3½ *d.*; I would not wish for better meat, nor could I have it cooked better in my own house. You can read all the leading periodicals of the day from the Quarterly Review to penny publications, the French papers, German papers, and Italian papers. The man who kept that house paid 400 *l.* odd a year for publications.

1324. In what part of London is this house?—Behind the County Fire Office; the man's name is Pamphillon.

1325. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Where is it?—In Sherrard-street, Golden-square. Pamphilon has retired, having made a fortune. He is so famous as a coffee-house man, that if a person were to establish a house in his name, he would get custom.

1326. *Chairman.*] He did get a great deal of custom?—He got a large custom.

1327. Of what class?—Of mechanics, gentlemen's servants, coachmen, and in fact all grades. The house is very much used by foreigners, and there is a very excellent library.

1328. You say the house is used by all classes; do the very lowest among the working people go there?—Yes; the only proviso in visiting the house is to behave yourself.

1329. No spirits are sold there?—No, none at all; nor are any provided.

1330. Have not coffee-houses been very much in vogue within the last 25 years?—Yes.

1331. They have been increasing considerably in London?—Yes; I believe there are between 5,000 and 6,000 coffee-houses in London.

1332. Some are good, and some are bad?—Yes.

1333. Do you know anything about those that are bad; are they used for bad purposes?—Yes.

1334. They may be kept open all night?—Yes; there was one some years ago; it was called the "Finish," and was kept open all night; but it has gone down completely: I believe for the use of the market gardeners in Covent Garden, there are some night-houses kept open all night, and in the neighbourhood of Smithfield. In fact, I know there are houses kept open all night, but they are kept open for the use of the parties who visit the markets.

1335. Do you know any of them that are ill conducted?—There are some in the

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

the neighbourhood of Whitechapel, and in the vicinity of the docks, which are badly conducted.

1336. Those places are not licensed, and are not subject to any supervision by the police?—No.

1337. Do you think it would be attended with any advantage if there were a registration of all such houses?—Yes; I have had an idea of that description, that they should be registered with a small duty.

1338. Do you mean a duty to the Government in the nature of a small licence duty?—Yes, a very trifling payment; I think it would have the tendency of keeping them in order, and regulating them. There are some that do not require keeping in order by any legislation, because they are kept in order by the parties themselves.

1339. But still, as places of public resort, they are places of temptation, as well as of attraction, to the working people?—There is no temptation unless there is gambling allowed. Some of them will permit draughts, backgammon and chess; that is allowed at the one I have named, and at others. I know there are some where they have bagatelle boards, and that, I think, is a temptation.

1340. Do you think backgammon, or any of those things which profess to be innocent in themselves, are injurious to the people who visit the coffee-houses?—They are not allowed to play for any stake.

1341. May they not if they get a licence?—They may.

1342. There is such a thing as a licence for certain games?—I do not hear of it in those houses.

1343. Is there not a licence for billiards?—Yes, there is a license for billiards.

1344. Do you think it would make those coffee-houses more respectable if they were registered and subject to certain regulations?—Yes.

1345. Do you think the more respectable people who keep them would object to it?—I think they would prefer it, those I have conversed with on the subject.

1346. They would not object to pay a duty, and have a licence?—Not a small duty.

1347. You would allow those people to take out a licence without applying to a magistrate, so that they should be registered?—Just the same as a beershop keeper or a cabman gets his licence.

1348. You think, from what you have observed at those coffee-houses and other places like them, that they require, from the number of people who resort to them, more supervision by the police than they have had hitherto?—In some low parts they require it. A policeman has no more right to enter a coffee-house than he has to enter my private dwelling. I think those houses have had a very powerful tendency in educating the people. The Committee, perhaps, will allow me to explain that when I say "educating," I mean by placing before them the literature of the day.

1349. The coffee-shops afford the people an easy access to the current literature?—I believe they have had the tendency of preventing a large amount of vice among the rising young men, because in the absence of those coffee-houses they could not go to any other places for refreshment but taverns. There are young men who have only bedrooms.

1350. You say that those coffee-houses should not be discouraged, but made more respectable if possible?—I would put them under inspection, and rather encourage them than discourage them, in the absence of clubs, for the people. I made an effort some years ago to establish a club, on the system of the clubs at the West-end, and the nearest approach to them is the Whittington Club.

1351. Evidence has been given before the Committee that a great number of those coffee-shops are used as brothels; has that fallen within your knowledge?—I have no doubt it is so, for I traced one in the neighbourhood of Leicester-square.

1352. You said that you had been employed by some private individuals to make surveys of particular districts with the view of ascertaining the habits of the people?—Twelve months ago last March I was employed by a gentleman of the name of Tucker, who purchased the village of Pavenham, in Bedfordshire, which adjoins Oakley, the property of the Duke of Bedford. Mr. Tucker purchased

chased the houses and all the land of the village, and he wished me to ascertain the particulars as to the population, and the moral and social condition of the people, and to form a little schedule for him, that he might see how he could improve the people. I went down, and I spent a month there last March twelvemonth.

1353. Had that village been much neglected before?—Yes, it had. The population, I think, was somewhere between 600 and 700. The male portion of the population were mat makers and agricultural labourers, and the females were lacemakers. I found the people, as far as their health was concerned, in a good state, and their dwellings were tolerable, but I found them in a fearful state of ignorance; an average number of, I believe, about 70 per cent. could not read or write. The women were extremely ignorant of their domestic duties; for instance, they could not make a drop of gruel or soup. I found the females in a very demoralized state, and a large number had had illegitimate children.

1354. Was there any school?—There was a school, but a very inferior one.

1355. Sir *G. Grey.*] Were there any public-houses?—Four.

1356. Do you know whether they were much frequented?—Yes, they were; I dated the demoralization and the frequency of chance children amongst the females, which occurred in mothers and daughters of one family at the same time, to their visiting those public-houses with the men.

1357. *Chairman.*] The people were in the habit of drinking and getting drunk at the public-houses?—Yes, and another thing they were much addicted to was, that 16 out of every 20 women were opium eaters.

1358. Were the five public-houses licensed?—Yes.

1359. Sir *G. Grey.*] They were not beerhouses?—I think there was one beerhouse, and three public-houses.

1360. *Chairman.*] Looking at the size of the place, and the extent of the population, should you say those five houses were more than were required?—Yes.

1361. Were you at this village of Pavenham on a Sunday?—I spent a month there.

1362. Did you observe much drunkenness on Sunday?—Yes, late on Sunday.

1363. The public-houses were open in the evening?—Yes.

1364. The people worked in the day, and spent their time in the public-houses in the evening, and on Sundays?—Yes.

1365. Sir *G. Grey.*] Was there more drunkenness on Sunday evening than there was on any other evening in the week?—Yes.

1366. *Chairman.*] Did you visit any other village?—I paid a passing visit to a village called Old Warden. I hardly know whether the contrast would be just, because I spent a month in the one place, and only paid a passing visit in the other. Old Warden is the property of Lord Ongley; it is in Bedfordshire likewise. I found only one drinking house there, and the people told me that drunkenness was nearly unknown. The steward of Lord Ongley kept a drinking house, and he had provided various amusements for the people, such as a gymnasium and cricket-ground. There was no concert, or anything of that sort; but they had all beautiful gardens, and of course their evenings were occupied.

1367. Some benevolent persons had been looking after the poor in this village, and provided them with innocent recreations; and there was not more than one public-house required for that place?—The proprietor of the place had provided amusements for the people.

1368. Was there anything in the village to preclude anybody else starting a beershop or a public-house?—I should say there was; it was Lord Ongley's own property.

1369. The fact was that drinking and drunkenness were unknown?—Yes.

1370. I presume this public-house was well conducted?—Yes.

1371. Sir *G. Grey.*] You say the public-house was kept by Lord Ongley's steward, and subject to his Lordship's own direction?—Yes, subject to his supervision.

1372. *Chairman.*] Was it Lord Ongley who looked after the people?—Yes; the people all wore red handkerchiefs like the Swiss, and it was his Lordship's hobby to have the village look like a Swiss village.

1373. Was there a school at that village?—There was everything of an educational nature.

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

1374. Did the people use to play at cricket on Sunday afternoon?—I do not know as to that.

1375. How did they amuse themselves on the Sunday?—I cannot say; I was not there on a Sunday.

1376. Do you know whether the public-house was open on that day?—No.

1377. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you know the population of Old Warden?—I do not know the population.

1378. *Chairman.*] It was not greater than Pavenham?—I should say not.

1379. What was the employment of the people?—Purely agricultural.

1380. You were there to inquire into the moral habits of the people, and you found it a great contrast to the other village you have mentioned?—Yes; I visited the other village so much later; several years have elapsed; I visited during the last recess the town of Luton, in Bedfordshire; and I spent a fortnight there during the recess.

1381. Is that where straw bonnets are made?—Yes. I surveyed that town as well as I could in a fortnight, and paid particular attention to the drinking houses.

1382. Sir *G. Grey.*] What is the population of Luton; I presume it is considerably larger than that of the two villages of which you have been speaking?—The population of Luton is 13,903.

1383. *Chairman.*] What did you observe about the drinking there, or about the habits of the people?—The proportion of females in Luton is considerably more than the males.

1384. What is the result of that?—The principal amount of intoxication is among the males; the morality of the females is high; taking all the circumstances into consideration, that there are there a very large proportion of young females earning a great deal of money for females, and also taking into consideration that, to a certain extent, they are not under any parental control.

1385. You mean that they can earn their living at an early age, and can be independent of their parents?—They do; they earn a living by the straw-bonnet making, and plait making, but principally by sewing bonnets; the total number of public-houses is 105.

1386. Sir *G. Grey.*] Does that include beershops?—Yes; and I paid some very particular attention, and persevered to a very great extent, to ascertain whether there were any of those houses which were devoted to immoral purposes, as brothels; I am very happy to say I only found one, which was a beershop, that was devoted to that purpose. I am also very happy to say that the amount of illegitimate children in the poorhouse, out of that large population, was only three.

1387. *Chairman.*] Did you take any notice of the house you found devoted to that purpose?—I made it known to the authorities of the place. In every place I go into I make it a point to go to the authorities, when I find those places, and name it to them.

1388. Was the person you named it to a magistrate?—No; one of the commissioners, an inspector of pavements and nuisances; one of the leading men of the town.

1389. Was this a beerhouse, or a licensed victualler's house?—A beerhouse.

1390. Sir *G. Grey.*] How many of these drinking houses were beerhouses, and how many public-houses?—Licensed victuallers, 47; beerhouses, 44; wholesale dealers in spirits, 3; brewers, 4; food dealers in the town, 80; that is, of all sorts; dealers in clothes, including tailors and shoemakers, 50.

1391. *Chairman.*] What is your inference now, after you have considered the habits of the people and the number of drinking houses; that the people are generally temperate at Luton?—I think they are more temperate there than they are in many towns of equal population.

1392. Why?—Because of the various benevolent societies; there are people who pay particular attention to the morals of the working classes; for instance, the Society of Friends have, at their own expense, a female missionary to visit the workshops where the young women work in parties. Mr. Vyse, the great straw bonnet manufacturer, has a large factory, and this missionary visits and converses with them. Some of the manufacturers have provided libraries for their workpeople, and there is a general supervision. The places of worship are very numerously attended by those young persons.

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1393. In fact, they avail themselves of these places because they are provided for them?—Yes.

1394. What is the number of places of worship?—There is the Established Church, attended by 900 persons; it will accommodate 2,000. The Wesleyan Chapel will accommodate 1,900, and 1,500 attend; the Union Baptist Chapel 1,150, and 900 attend; the Wellington-street Baptist Chapel will accommodate 1,100, and 700 attend; another Baptist Chapel accommodates 800, and 600 attend.

1395. From that statement, it appears that the provision made by the Established Church is less than by the other religious denominations?—The Established Church will hold 2,000 persons.

1396. You found ample provision made at Luton for public worship?—Yes.

1397. And the places were well attended?—Yes.

1398. Are there any other places of innocent recreation which are provided for the people?—No other places; they occasionally have lectures to the females.

1399. Are there any reading-rooms?—There is a Mechanics' Institute.

1400. How many schools are there at Luton?—There is a benevolent society, a Dorcas Society, and a Female Savings Bank, at which there are 650 depositors. I have not the school statistics with me.

1401. Sir *G. Grey.*] Were there several schools in the place?—Every place had a school.

1402. There was ample provision for the education of the children?—No doubt.

1403. *Chairman.*] You ascribe the fact that the people are not so drunk at Luton as in other places, to the means which are taken to improve them?—I ascribe it to the moral tendency of the schools, and the religious tendencies of the place; I attribute the high state of morality amongst the females (and I tested it in every way I possibly could), to the provisions made in a religious and scholastic point of view.

1404. That is another instance in which ample provision has been made for the improvement of the people, and in which they have abandoned their drunken habits and become moral and well conducted?—Yes.

1405. Have you any other way of accounting for the moral habits of the people at Luton, as you have described them to the Committee, considering that the proportion of public-houses is rather larger than in the case of the village you have mentioned?—Yes; the working men are rather of a thrifty nature; there is a building society established there, and it has had a very good tendency, as it has everywhere, in exciting a saving habit; of course, the more you excite a saying habit amongst the poor, the less they will go to drinking houses.

1406. How do you account for the great number of drinking houses in Luton?—By the increase of population; although there is a great number of drinking houses they do not all live; most of the beershop-keepers have some other mode of getting their living in connexion with their house.

1407. A legitimate mode?—Yes.

1408. Sir *G. Grey.*] The number of beerhouses and public-houses which you have stated in Luton bears about the same proportion to the population that the number of beerhouses and public-houses does in Pavenham?—Yes; but the publicans at Pavenham are small farmers; one was a travelling huckster, and another was engaged on a farm, and it is the same way at Luton; the beershop-keepers are either carpenters or bricklayers, or something in connexion with their beershops.

1409. Do you think that there is much less drinking in Luton, in proportion to the population, than in Pavenham, although the number of drinking houses bears the same proportion to the population?—Yes; my nightly observations, visiting them as I did at the risk occasionally of being kicked out, tells me that they were not so well attended as they would have been in many places with an equal population.

1410. *Chairman.*] I presume your general conclusion from your observations is, that the people should be as much protected against the temptation of the alehouse as possible, and that recreation of an innocent kind should be promoted, and everything done to encourage their education?—Most assuredly; I think that the new libraries which have been established recently will have that tendency.

Mr *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

1411. Sir *G. Grey.*] How long has that society for rational recreation at Leeds been established?—I do not know; I only know Leeds from having two sons and friends living there, and from visiting it every year.

1412. Has that society been some time in existence?—I think not more than two or three years.

1413. Do you know whether it has produced any sensible diminution in the number of persons attending public-houses?—The last year it was seriously felt, and the publicans began to make a stir about it, and they called a public meeting on the subject.

1414. Was that in consequence of a falling off in the number of persons visiting their houses?—Yes; I should say so.

1415. You said the people drank more in public-houses where there were concerts, and other objects of attraction; do you mean that more people go to them and drink, or that the people who go drink more, individually, than they do in other houses?—I think more people go there, and drink individually.

1416. Do they drink spirits or beer chiefly at those places?—Principally malt liquor amongst the working classes.

1417. Mr. *Gregson.*] You spoke of some persons being intoxicated with opium at Pavenham?—The majority of the females at Pavenham are consumers of opium; I discovered it by close investigation at first, of a young female, the mistress of the lace school; I was very much astonished at her different appearance towards the latter part of the day to what it was in the morning, when I first went in. I said to the lady at whose house I was staying, the proprietor of the village inn, that it struck me that opium was consumed. She said "No." I said, "My strong impression is that it is, and I must investigate it." I did so, and I found that it was, and had for a considerable number of years been consumed in that village. It was sold in as small quantities as a halfpenny worth, at the hucksters' shops.

1418. It is not sold at the public-houses, I presume?—No.

1419. Is it sold at the druggists' shops?—There are no druggists' shops in the village; there are little chandlers' shops.

1420. You found opium extensively consumed?—Yes.

1421. By women only?—Yes.

1422. Sir *J. Pakington.*] When did you pay this visit to Bedfordshire?—I was at Pavenham last March twelvemonth.

1423. Were your visits to the two villages of Pavenham and Old Warden paid in the same year?—No; several years elapsed between the two visits.

1424. Last March twelvemonth you stayed a month at Pavenham?—Yes.

1425. During your stay in Bedfordshire did you turn your attention to the working of the beerhouse system in that county?—In Bedford I did; I spent a couple of days in Bedford. I always make it a point at every place which I visit to see society in its worst condition, and I was very much struck, in the low parts of Bedford, with the working of the beerhouses there; the parties that visited them appeared to me to be of the very lowest order of the people.

1426. Are you now speaking of the town of Bedford?—Yes.

1427. At what distance from the town of Bedford is the village of Pavenham, where you stayed for a month?—About six miles.

1428. Did you hear any complaints, or make any observation with regard to the working of the beerhouse system in the rural district near Bedford?—I did not.

1429. Were there any beerhouses in the parish of Pavenham?—I think there were one or two.

1430. How many public-houses were there?—Two or three.

1431. Did you hear any comparisons made between the character of the beerhouses and the character of the public-houses?—No. The worst house, which Mr. Tucker wished to get entirely rid of, was not his property. He purchased all but the public-houses, and the worst house was a licensed house. There was a club held there of the poor people; and one night they had their box stolen, with all the money.

1432. I understood you to say, that neither in the village of Pavenham, nor in the rural district around it, did you hear any particular complaints with regard to the beerhouses?—I did not pay any attention to the district round; my investigation was confined strictly to the village of Pavenham.

1433. Your attention probably was not particularly directed to the character

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of the beerhouses, either in the village or the neighbourhood?—Not to Oakley, or the surrounding villages.

1434. Mr. *Brown.*] When you were on your visit to Leeds, did you go down as far as Liverpool?—I only went to Liverpool on a visit.

1435. Do you know anything of the Lord Nelson-street concerts?—No.

1436. When you speak of the taste of the people for theatrical amusements improving, do not you attribute that, in some measure, to the better class of actors who have come upon the stage; you said that when the great actors left the stage, the taste of the people fell off, and now that they are getting a better class of actors, the taste is again reviving?—I think I would cultivate a taste for good theatrical amusements, because I believe they will have a tendency to empty the public-houses and raise the ideas of the people. I give this evidence at the risk of being tabooed by my dissenting brethren. I cannot help it; that is my opinion. When I was young, what were termed "the gods," that is the visitors to the shilling gallery, were the judges of good theatrical representation, during the personification of Shakspeare's plays by Kean, and Kemble, and those parties whom I witnessed myself. I think, with these men died the true representation of Shakspeare, and the taste of the working classes sank with them. I believe it is now rising again with the reproduction of a good race of actors.

1437. *Chairman.*] You do not see any necessary evil connected with the theatre?—None necessarily.

1438. The theatre may be the means of improving and raising the taste of the common people?—Yes; the evil I see is in the pieces I have alluded to, which were placed before the people.

1439. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is there any evil connected with the persons who are found about the precincts of a theatre?—I think the evil is connected with drink.

1440. Would you prescribe any regulations by which no drinking house should be established in the immediate vicinity of a theatre?—I would close them most assuredly at an earlier hour, and place them under stricter investigation.

1441. *Chairman.*] You refer to places that sell intoxicating liquors?—Yes. I think it would be highly detrimental to those amusements, and would tend to alter their effect upon the people, by allowing strong drinks to be sold in the theatres.

1442. Mr. *Brown.*] To what to do you attribute the sobriety of the German sugar-bakers; it would be natural to suppose, as no class of people work in a worse atmosphere, or are more exposed, that these sugar-bakers would be addicted to drink?—I found, in the survey which I made in St. George's-in-the-East, the homes of the German sugar-bakers to be most comfortable, and I found that they were the soberest men. I was asked a question relating to the licensing of tea and coffee-houses. I had heard that in Gravesend the tea-houses and coffee-shops were to a great extent brothels, and I took some trouble, and went down to ascertain that fact. I have no doubt of it, and I think that strengthens my view that they ought to be placed under inspection to a greater extent than they are.

1443. *Chairman.*] I understand you to consider the coffee-shops as very useful places of resort, so long as they were not abused for these purposes?—Yes.

1444. Do you think that they could be improved by being registered and licensed?—They should be subjected to the inspection of some persons authorised by the Government.

1445. Mr. *Gregson.*] You spoke of the judge and jury clubs being established for the encouragement of drinking; is there any payment for admission to those clubs?—I believe at Bow-street you have to pay 1 *s.*, and I think you have it returned. I am not certain of that; but in some of the other parts of London there is nothing paid. You simply go in and take your seat, and call for something to drink, and the trial goes on.

1446. You can pay your shilling and stay there, and not take anything to drink?—I suppose so; I believe you can.

1447. Mr. *Brown.*] To what cause do you attribute the German sugar-bakers being more temperate men than others?—I do not know; I could not ascertain that; they were not frequenters of public-houses; they appeared to me to be like the Jews. I made a survey among the Jews in the Jews' quarter, Petticoat-

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

30 May 1854.

lane, as it is called, during the cholera; I found that the lower order of Jews, or the working classes of the Jews, although they frequent the public-houses and the coffee-houses, were not a drunken people; I paid particular attention to that. I found that the Jews on our Saturday night, after their Sabbath, were great frequenters of theatres; the theatres in their quarter are crammed. If you were to go to the theatres near the Jews' quarter, you would find the gallery and pit filled with Jews and Jewesses.

1448. *Chairman.*] Do not the Jews observe the Sabbath more strictly than Christians?—Yes; they are strict observers of the Sabbath. If you go into the Jews' quarter on a Saturday, you find all their shops shut up, and the children at school; the lowest Jews observe the Sabbath; it commences at sunset on Friday evening, and ends on Saturday evening at sunset, and then they go to the theatre. I have seen the theatre, and seen them going into the pit, boxes, and gallery in their quarter.

1449. *Chairman.*] They do not go to the public-houses?—They do not as a body go to the public-houses, except some of the very low amongst them.

1450. Sir *J. Pakington.*] What are their habits on the Friday evening, where do they go then?—They are then preparing for the Sabbath.

1451. Sir *G. Grey.*] What are their habits on our Sunday?—Most of them do business, or take pleasure.

1452. You do not find them among the multitudes who, you say, frequent the public-houses on that day?—No.

1453. Mr. *Gregson.*] You spoke of being the conductor of some festival; what name does that festival bear?—They were called Temperance Festivals.

Robert Hutton, Esq., called in; and Examined.

R. Hutton, Esq.

1454. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are now resident at Putney Park?—Yes.

1455. Do you attend at the Bench of Magistrates regularly?—Yes.

1456. Where is that?—At Wandsworth; it comprises the district in which I live, and two or three other adjoining parishes.

1457. Mr. *Gregson.*] Are you the chairman of the bench of magistrates?—Yes.

1458. *Chairman.*] The chairman of the quarter sessions?—No; I am the chairman of the petty sessions.

1459. Are you in the habit of granting licences to persons applying?—Yes, we do annually.

1460. Do you observe any particular course with respect to licences, or do you grant them pretty freely?—We have considerable difficulty in determining what licences to grant, and most of us would be very glad to be relieved from the responsibility of granting licences.

1461. You find considerable difficulty in deciding who is entitled to a licence, and who is not?—Yes.

1462. Do you think it is possible for magistrates, looking at their station in life, and their general occupation, to understand very well what are the requirements of a district as to the supply of liquors?—No, I do not; I always have felt very great difficulty.

1463. You think then, as a trade, it would regulate itself like others, by the supply meeting the demand?—I think it would after some time; I believe at present, if the existing system of granting licences were discontinued, there would be a very great increase of public-houses at first, but I believe ultimately the trade would regulate itself.

1464. Upon what grounds do you form that opinion, that there would be a great increase; have you a great number of applications upon each licensing day?—Yes, we have a great many; the last licensing day we had 23, and we only granted four; I dare say those persons who applied for licences would open public-houses, because it is considered at present a privilege and advantage, and an increase of power, to have a licensed public-house. I think, after a short time, the want would regulate the supply, as it does with respect to every thing else.

1465. You do observe, then, some rule in granting those licences, or rather in refusing them?—Yes.

1466. May I ask what that rule is?—A committee of magistrates generally go to see the district and observe the houses; and if there is a house demanding a licence between two other houses, each having a licence, within a reasonable distance,

distance, we refuse that licence, and especially we are inclined to refuse it if the house is not one suited to the accommodation of the public; if it has not the sort of accommodation which would induce us to think it will probably be respectably conducted.

1467. Have you any reason, upon those occasions, to question the respectability of the parties that apply; when a man applies, for instance, to have a licensed house between two others that are licensed?—We generally take some trouble upon that subject; we require certificates or notices from the police respecting the character of persons applying, and we get the best information that we can; it is not always such as we should wish to have, because persons are very willing to grant testimonials in favour of anything, provided it does not involve them in any payment of money or responsibility.

1468. There are other gentlemen besides yourself upon the bench at the time the licences are granted?—Generally the bench consists of six, seven, or eight magistrates.

1469. There are different views entertained by those different gentlemen, I presume?—Yes; some of those gentlemen apprehend a considerable evil from granting licences; we are all of us of opinion, I think, that if the licences were to be granted, there should be a very effective control; that the licence should be granted rather upon the character of the person; that the person should bring forward efficient security, and that there should be more efficient control given to the police and the magistrates as to the conduct of the houses.

1470. Then the control as at present exercised you do not consider is sufficient or complete?—No, I do not think it is; we know two or three cases in our district where the keepers of public-houses are habitual drunkards, but they continue to hold their licences. I do not know that the magistrates would have any power to withdraw the license on that ground, although they know it, unless there was a strong application made which people are not disposed to make.

1471. That is to say, you do not receive legal evidence of the facts, and you say people are indisposed to lay informations against the publicans?—We require a report upon the renewal of the licence as to the conduct of the house. If the police report that there have been convictions against that house, we suspend that licence for further inquiry; but if there are no reports by the police, we seldom receive any other public applications. Our neighbours frequently say to us, "Such a house is a great nuisance to our neighbourhood; it is very indifferently conducted;" but we cannot act, and do not think ourselves justified in acting upon such grounds.

1472. You depend upon the information you receive from the police?—Yes.

1473. You require that kind of evidence chiefly, such as evidence of convictions?—Yes.

1474. Do the police confine their reports to those houses that have been convicted?—Generally, I think so.

1475. They do not give their own opinion as to the mode in which the house has been conducted?—We have occasionally notices, but very seldom.

1476. What convictions are they?—They are generally convicted for keeping the house open after hours on a Sunday night, or on the Saturday night particularly; sometimes convictions for short weights and measures.

1477. For instance, the case you mentioned, of the publican himself being a drunkard, would not come before you?—No; we have no notice of it in our capacity as magistrates; but we know it as individuals.

1478. The police have no means of knowing that, have they, beyond any other person?—No.

1479. There is not any such duty as that imposed upon them, to inquire into the character of the publican, or into the mode in which the house is conducted?—I do not think they have any power of that kind.

1480. Do the magistrates require a report to be made of the convictions that have been obtained against the houses before they renew the licenses?—We call annually for such a report; we obtain that from the police in the district, we have that before us on the renewal of the licence.

1481. Do the same magistrates generally attend each year at the licensing day?—Very generally.

1482. What number of magistrates preside on those occasions?—Seven or eight.

R. Hutton, Esq.

30 May 1854.

1483. There are differences of opinion, as you state. The granting of licences is decided by vote, is it not?—Yes. I do not think we have any narrow divisions of opinion.

1484. Does it ever enter into the consideration of the magistrates that the property of the existing public-houses might be injured if another public-house was licensed?—It does enter into the consideration of some magistrates, I think; but I think that, generally speaking, we look to the accommodation of the public.

1485. If the magistrates have any interest in the property of those houses, they would not sit upon those occasions?—Never; one of the magistrates is a brewer in our district; he never sits, and never interferes.

1486. Is he in the commission of the peace?—Yes; I never knew him intimate to any of the magistrates any wish upon the subject.

1487. Does he supply the beer chiefly to the houses in that neighbourhood?—I think very likely he does.

1488. You do not know whether that is the case?—I think they are supplied by a great variety of brewers; it is so near London; at the same time many of the houses are the property, I have no doubt, of brewers.

1489. Where that is the case, they would object to any fresh house that was not connected with their brewery?—Yes; we have often applications made to us, not by that individual, but by persons in the interest of other public-houses, against granting a fresh license. We always hear the application for the public-house and against the public-house before we decide.

1490. Do the applications against the new licence come from publicans who are licensed?—Very often.

1491. Do those applications weigh with the magistrates?—I doubt whether the magistrates much consider them; we generally endeavour to look at the character of the persons who sign the application, so far as we can judge of them. I confess I do not much regard those unless they come in a very peculiar shape, from the notion which I have that it is very easy to obtain those applications *pro* or *con*.

1492. Are the magistrates annoyed by applications before they decide on the licensing day?—I do not know; I have always discouraged every thing of that kind, and said I would not hear anything of that kind; let them come in the regular way.

1493. Applications were made to you before you decided upon the hearing?—Yes; I believe other magistrates do exactly as I do upon the subject; I think I have seldom had any lately, and it is well known that the bench will not hear any private applications.

1494. You object to the canvass that takes place before the licensing day?—In our district I am not aware that there is much canvass; there is not in my case, I know.

1495. Have you considered the subject at all, independently of your district; do you know that this canvassing does take place very generally?—I have no knowledge of it.

1496. You stated that you had a great number of applications, from the notion that it is a privilege, or a very good thing, which a man obtains when he gets a licence?—We know in many cases that the value of the house is very greatly increased by its obtaining a licence; we find that the value of the house is much increased by the circumstance of its having a licence; and if the house is desired to be disposed of, a greater sum can be obtained for it. In a late case, a very strong application was made in favour of a licence for a person whom we afterwards found was insolvent, or about to be insolvent; and we found the application was made on the ground that his creditors expected to dispose of his house to more advantage if the licence were granted.

1497. That is, they would have received a large sum for the goodwill of the house, had it been conducted for some time longer?—Yes.

1498. What is paid for the goodwill depends upon the amount of trade or business which they can show to have been done?—I think, without showing a good deal of trade, the circumstance of having a licence has a considerable effect.

1499. The value of a licence consists in the fact, that another licence will not be granted to come into competition in that particular district or locality?—If there

345

there are a great number of licences in a district, the magistrates would be unwilling to licence an additional house, even if it started on the ground that there is not sufficient accommodation to the public.

1500. You have a good many beerhouses, I suppose, in your neighourhood?—Yes.

1501. Have you been led to form any opinion with respect to the system which exists of dividing the business of a publican in two parts; the licence for one portion coming from the magistrates, and the licence for the other from the Board of Inland Revenue?—I always thought the licence from the Inland Revenue was obtained with too much facility; whatever system was good for the licensed public-house was also good for the licensed beerhouse. I am aware that beerhouses in our district are, perhaps, under less supervision and under less control than the public-houses. Parties can go to the overseer and obtain a recommendation from two or three people; and if the house even was subject to a lower rate to the poor than was necessary to obtain the licence, the man may go to the overseer and say, "If you will sign this for me, although I only pay 7*l.* a year, I will pay 10*l.* to you willingly; raise my poor-rate to 10*l.*, but only grant my application for a licence to sell beer."

1502. I understand you not to be satisfied with the present system, and to be of opinion that if the publican's business is to be conducted under a licence, that licence should be obtained under the same circumstances?—I conceive whatever system is good for the one is good for the other.

1503. Have you ever considered whether it would be an improvement upon the present system, that one uniform system should be adopted with respect to every kind of public-house?—I should be glad to see more efficient control given over all houses selling malt liquor or ardent spirits by the police, and by the magistrates; I should like real substantial security given by all persons requiring licenses, and a summary mode of conviction on their not conducting their houses properly.

1504. You think there is something wanting in the mode in which evidence is procured against public-houses at present, and something not uniform or consistent in the way in which the law is administered; that there is great discretion left in the magistrates, and that it is exercised in some places capriciously?—I suppose it is so; I should like as a magistrate to be relieved from a good deal of responsibility that attaches to the present system.

1505. It is a portion of your duty which you consider to be almost painful from the responsibility and from the inability of doing it in a satisfactory manner?—Yes; and I believe the majority of the magistrates join me in that opinion.

1506. You state, from communicating with them upon the subject, that they are not at all tenacious of their power?—No.

1507. You have stated that there is a want of control on the part of the police, is there any amendment in the present system you would suggest?—I do not know whether the police have at present the power of entering all licensed houses at all times, but I think they should have that power. It should be the duty of the police to report regularly, not merely upon conviction, but as to general conduct of the houses.

1508. You think their duty, as to inspecting houses, should be better defined, and that somebody should be bound to inquire what the conduct of those houses is, and report upon them to somebody who should be bound to administer the law strictly?—Yes; there should be every security for no vexatious complaints being made against them, but they should be obliged to conduct their houses well. I believe, in our district, they are as well conducted as in most places. I do not make any peculiar complaint.

1509. Is there much evil arising from the number of houses, and the habits of intoxication of the people, in consequence?—I do not know that there is; I do not know that intoxication is greater where there is a great number of houses than where there is a small number.

1510. It has been suggested to this Committee, and there have been a great number of petitions to the same effect, that it would be advisable to close public-houses on the Sunday evening; are you of that opinion?—I think it might be advantageous to close the public-houses, provided there were the means of accommodating people whose homes are not comfortable, and those people had the means of obtaining rational and instructive amusement.

R. Hutton, Esq.

30 May 1854.

1511. You think that those attractions would be greater than the public-house?—I think so.

1512. You see no objection to extending those modes of amusement?—On the contrary, I think it would be a great inducement to the rational amusement and the education of the lower classes if these instructive amusements, guarded so as not to lead to immorality, were encouraged and promoted.

1513. As a magistrate, having acted for some years, you would not see any mischief in the opening of gardens and places of innocent recreation being more extended?—No; I should be very glad to see the means of obtaining such refreshments as were given at the Crystal Palace. On the Sunday evening I should not see any objection to that. The objection is to houses that sell ardent spirits, and thus lead to intoxication.

1514. Sir *G. Grey*.] Has your attention been called to the 4th and 5th of Will. 4, c. 85, s. 7, which enacts, "That it shall be lawful for all constables and officers of police, and they are hereby authorised and empowered to enter into all houses which are or shall be licensed to sell beer or spirituous liquors to be consumed upon the premises, when and so often as such constables and officers shall think proper," and the remaining part of the clause, which imposes a penalty upon the keepers of those houses who "shall refuse to admit, or shall not admit such constable or officer of police into such house, or upon such premises"?—I am aware there is that power; I do not think the police exercise it very much; I think the police, under the circumstances, unless they had particular direction to do it, and unless it was their duty to do it, would feel it a very obnoxious exercise of their power.

1515. When you recommend that the control of the police should be made more efficient, am I to understand that you do not think an alteration in the law is requisite, but that the superintending authorities of the police should require them to enter those public-houses more frequently?—Yes.

1516. Do not you think that might lead to the police themselves forming habits of intemperance?—I am aware that that has been considered a great objection to it, but I think if the houses were shut after a certain hour on Sunday evening, that there would be less objection to it.

1517. Have convictions been frequent within your district with respect to the keepers of public-houses?—Not very frequent; our district is a metropolitan police district, and the convictions come before the police magistrate, so that we only know of them through the report which comes to us annually; a great many complaints are made, but I believe they are not very heavy complaints, and they are often not punished by the police magistrate.

1518. Whenever a report of conviction is brought before you on the licensing day, do you take notice of it, and withhold the licence, or suspend it?—In every case we suspend, for the purpose of inquiry. We often make inquiry of the police, or of the police magistrate, into the circumstances of the case.

1519. Do many cases of suspension occur at your annual licensing days?—We generally suspend them for three or four weeks, but the general practice is ultimately to renew them with a caution.

1520. Are those cases of suspension numerous?—I think there are 70 publicans in our district, and perhaps there are 7, 8, or 10 suspensions, or about 10 per cent. on the number.

1521. Can you state how many of those suspensions have ended in the withdrawal of the licence?—Not one; the law, I believe, requires, I am not certain upon this point, but it has been generally so considered by the magistrates, that three convictions by the police magistrates are necessary to justify the magistrates in withdrawing the licence altogether.

1522. Do you act upon that rule?—We generally do.

1523. Since you have acted as chairman of a bench of magistrates, do you mean to say that there has been no case in which the licence of a public-house has been withdrawn for misconduct?—Only one.

1524. You do not know anything of the number of convictions of beershopkeepers in the same district; they do not come before you, I believe?—They do not come before me.

1525. *Chairman*.] Why do not they come before you?—We, as magistrates, have nothing to do with the beerhouses. If we were acting as magistrates in a country district, we should know about them, but those cases come before the metropolitan police magistrates in our district.

1526. Sir

1526. Sir *G. Grey.*] Does the suspension of the licence involve the suspension of the business of the house till a decision is ultimately come to?—It does not; it involves nothing more than the trouble of bringing the publican before the magistrates a second time, and a certain degree of discredit, a very small one, as to the circumstances, and the magistrates giving them a lecture.

1527. Do you find that suspension of the licence generally answers its purpose, so as to prevent the person committing the offence again?—I think it has a preventive effect.

1528. *Chairman.*] It is a suspension of your judgment, and not a suspension of the licence?—Yes; it is attended with no sacrifice either of money or business, or in any way.

1529. Sir *G. Grey.*] You do not think that the magistrates are in fact bound by the law not to withdraw the licence until after three convictions?—I think not.

1550. It is merely a rule laid down by the magistrates for the guidance of their own conduct?—It is adopted by all benches of magistrates in Surrey. It would be considered a very hard case, and an arbitrary proceeding, if on one or even two convictions, unless under very aggravated circumstances, the magistrates were to withdraw a licence.

1531. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Has that rule been adopted in consequence of the successful appeals against the withdrawal of licences?—I do not know.

1532. Sir *J. Pakington.*] You stated your own practice as a magistrate in granting licences is to ascertain the character of the applicants, and also to inquire into the number of houses in the district compared to the population?—Yes.

1533. Is that the general rule upon which the other magistrates at Wandsworth act?—I think so.

1534. I understood you to give an assent to a question from the Chairman that the magistrates do frequently act capriciously in granting licences; have you observed anything which you would call capricious in the exercise of their power of granting licences?—I think not; I did not mean to say that the magistrates acted capriciously.

1535. You never saw anything in the conduct of the magistrates granting licences that you considered capricious, or otherwise than was consistent with the fair wants of the district?—No.

1536. *Chairman.*] You said there was a difference of opinion amongst magistrates as to the grounds upon which licences should be granted?—Yes.

1537. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Are the beerhouses about your neighbourhood very numerous as compared with the public-houses?—I think they are.

1538. Is it within your knowledge whether the complaints of misconduct are more frequent as against beerhouses than as against public-houses?—It is not within my knowledge.

1539. You do not believe it to be so?—I do not know; you could easily get a return from the police magistrate upon that subject.

1540. As a resident in the district, have you any knowledge upon that part of the subject?—No.

1541. Mr. *Packe.*] The licences you have suspended, you say, are about 10 per cent.; do you sign the licence on the licensing day, or do you suspend the signature to the licence until the expiration of the month you have suspended it?—We do not sign the licenses on the regular day. We make an inquiry into the circumstance of the conviction, and direct the publican to attend on the adjourned day, which we generally fix at the distance of three or four weeks. We tell him he may then attend, and we will give him an answer.

1542. I suppose you never suspend to a day beyond the day on which the yearly licence would expire?—No.

1543. Are the majority of the houses in your neighbourhood the property of brewers?—I know many of them are; but whether the majority of them are or not I cannot say.

1544. Do you know whether there is much competition on the part of the brewers for the different houses?—I do not think I have information to enable me to answer that question.

1545. Have you any applications from the owners of the houses to license those houses?—Yes, frequently. They seldom come in that shape; the owner is the person behind. The application generally comes from the person

R. Hutton, Esq.

30 May 1854.

wishing to have the house established; not the owner of the house, but the person who is to be the occupier of the house comes, and brings forward his character. We know very well that the application is not *bonâ fide* from him, but that the person who has built the house, in a new neighbourhood probably, wishes for a licence.

1546. In order to obtain a higher rent for it?—Yes; we have known several instances of that description.

1547. If you do grant a licence to a house, the licence raises the value of the house, does not it?—Yes.

1548. In fact it is more a question of the house than of the man, is it not?—Yes; that is one great difficulty which we feel.

1549. Do you think it would be an amendment upon the present system if the licence were granted to the person, taking evidence of his character, and of his fitness for having a licence?—I think it would be a very great improvement, particularly if there were considerable securities required from the person applying for a licence.

1550. You attach importance to securities being given at the time of obtaining the licence for the payment of any penalties?—Yes.

1551. You think it is right that the applicants should pay a considerable fine or duty for the licence, as a security for the respectability of the parties applying?—I think there might be a graduated scale in that respect, and that scale might depend upon the value of the house itself; for instance, in a small district a house might be required, and it might be an unfair thing to require a high price for the licence, because they could not expect a very large business.

1552. Would not brewers, who put in agents and other parties to keep their public-houses, be more careful as to the character of those persons, if the licence were liable to be taken away for misconduct, after a considerable duty or fine had been paid for it, and would not that afford an additional security for the good character of the publican?—Yes.

1553. You think there is not sufficient security at present taken for the character of the publican?—No.

1554. Do you see any objection to the police or some other persons being appointed to inspect the public-houses in a district, and to their being compelled to report to the proper authorities what they observe at those houses?—I should consider it a great improvement if some arrangement were made by which it became the duty of some individual or individuals to be responsible for the good conduct of the public-houses.

1555. You think that arrangement would be better than the indefinite direction which they get now to report generally upon the houses?—I think so.

1556. Do you know that that system has been adopted with respect to the lodging-houses, and that one of the police is appointed inspector, and is bound to make a report as to the conduct of those houses?—I am only aware of it from public report.

1557. You would see no objection to one of the police, or more if required, having the district duty to perform of inspecting public-houses?—No.

1558. Sir *G. Grey*.] With the object of reporting to the magistrates generally, or with the object of prosecuting the persons who were guilty of a breach of the law?—With respect to both.

1559. Would it not be putting too great a power into the hands of a policeman to allow him to state his opinion generally upon the conduct of the houses, when no cases were brought before the magistrates for conviction?—It would require a person of very great prudence, and very good conduct to do it, but I think it should be the duty of some one to do it.

1560. Are you aware whether in the case of lodging-houses the licence can be withdrawn from a lodging-house withour conviction?—I do not know that.

1561. *Chairman*.] I presume you know that a good number of cases do not come before the magistrates for want of evidence, that is to say, for the want of persons who think it their duty to give evidence?—I have no doubt that is so.

1562. If an inspector of police were intrusted with the duty, and bound to perform it, he would be obliged to give evidence, and the magistrates would be made cognisant of the offences committed by a publican or his customers?—I have no doubt that would be the case.

1563. Are there not many houses in which people are supplied with drink on Sunday at illegal hours?—A great many.

1564. Do you think it would be any check to that practice if the customer were fined as well as the publican?—Probably it would.

1565. Are you aware of the custom in Ireland and in Scotland, that persons found in public-houses at improper times are made equally liable with the person supplying them spirits?—Yes.

1566. Do you see any objection to that system being established in England?—No.

1567. Mr. *Packe.*] Supposing the public-houses were closed on Sunday, would it not be convenient for them to be opened for a certain time to enable their customers to supply themselves with the malt liquor which they might require for their family meals?—They might obtain all the supply they required before a certain time; I do not think, that late in the evening that supply is required.

1568. Do not you think the public-houses should be open some time in the course of Sunday?—Yes; I do not think it would be right to close the public-houses entirely on Sunday.

1569. Mr. *Gregson.*] In granting licences do you adopt any fixed number, in proportion to the population?—We do not find that easy; in some districts the population may be of a class to require an accommodation which is not necessary in other districts.

1570. You have no rule of that sort?—We have no rule of that sort.

Veneris, 2° die Junii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. C. P. Villiers.	Mr. Gregson.
Mr. W. Brown.	Mr. Lowe.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Sir John Pakington.
Sir George Grey.	Mr. Packe.
Sir George Goodman.	

THE RIGHT HON. C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *John Caldwell*, called in; and Examined:

1571. *Chairman.*] YOU have an establishment, I think, somewhere in London?—In Dean-street, Soho.

1572. What is the peculiar nature of that establishment?—It is an assembly.

1573. What is the purpose of the assembly?—We have tuition; gentlemen come for private lessons; we give six lessons for a guinea; and then in the evening we have balls.

1574. Lord *D. Stuart.*] What sort of tuition do you give?—In dancing; being a large establishment, of course our pupils do not form a sufficient number; we open in the evening, and we charge 6*d.* admission, and 2*d.* for taking charge of the hats and bonnets.

1575. *Chairman.*] You keep a place of public entertainment, at which people pay for admission?—Yes.

1576. Is there music at your entertainments?—Yes.

1577. Is your establishment licensed?—Yes.

1578. What is the nature of the license?—It is licensed pursuant to the Act of George the Second, I think it is, by the Middlesex magistrates. When I applied for the licence I had a petition, which was signed by the churchwarden and all the inhabitants; the building cost me nearly 4,000*l.*; it is a very nice establishment, and is eligible to be let out for different parties. At the present moment I have the Crystal Palace band, of seventy members, rehearsing in this room.

1579. Do you sell refreshments there?—Yes; unfortunately, I have been fined by the Excise twice.

Mr. J. Caldwell.

2 June 1854.

1580. Have you sold spirits?—I used to send to a public-house, which is next door, and, of course, I used to get a penny out of a sixpenny glass of brandy and water, and through having that I was fined by the Excise.

1581. There was a profit derived by you from the sale of spirits upon your premises, when you had no licence for that purpose?—Yes. I merely took the penny out of sixpence, and I was fined. It was not my wish to evade the revenue; I was willing to pay for a licence; I applied once, and I was refused.

1582. You applied for a spirit licence?—Yes.

1583. You applied to the magistrates?—Yes.

1584. Upon what grounds did the magistrates refuse you a licence?—Because I was licensed for dancing; I was opposed by all the publicans.

1585. Upon what ground alleged?—They thought I might open a public-house; my object was only to supply my own customers, who come to my rooms; on boxing nights I have had as many as 600, and on average nights I have about 200.

1586. Did the magistrates state any reason, in your presence, for refusing you a licence?—I merely applied once after I was fined by the Excise the second time.

1587. Sir *G. Grey.*] You had not applied for a licence before you were fined, had you?—No.

1588. *Chairman.*] What is your understanding of the law, that you may send for spirits from a neighbouring public-house into your establishment, and that that would be legal; but that if you make a profit upon the refreshments which you bring in, then you come within the law, and you are liable to an information?—Yes, for cheating the revenue.

1589. Had the magistrates heard that you had been proceeded against when they refused you a licence?—I do not know; I was fined by the Excise-office.

1590. You are not aware of the grounds upon which they refused you a licence; but the publicans in the neighbourhood, for their own interest, opposed your having a licence?—Yes.

1591. Do your neighbours wish you to have a licence or not?—They do.

1592. Do the people who come to your rooms complain that they do not get the refreshments they expect?—Yes; if a gentleman asks for a glass of brandy-and-water, I say, "You must give me the shilling first." He says, "I shall not pay for it beforehand; it is quite enough to pay for it when I get it." Sometimes giving change causes a little confusion: a gentleman may say, "I have given this person half-a-crown." I number all my men with little gold collars; but I find sometimes that, as the master, in a case of dispute, I am obliged to pay the half-crown to the gentleman, and that inconvenience arises from my not being able to sell refreshments on the premises.

1593. Would there be any inconvenience if you chose to sell spirits at the same price that you gave for them?—I dare not do it.

1594. It is selling at all, even at the same price that you give for the articles which endangers you?—Yes; if I get a penny out of a glass of brandy and water it is illegal; I must send out for it as it is wanted.

1595. Are you not under some apprehension, that if you sold spirits at your dancing saloon, your establishment would not be so well conducted?—I do not think so. I heard that a public-house was to let; I applied for it; I certainly did not tell the man who it was that I applied for it for, and the man was satisfied to let me have it; but the brewers refused to let me take this public-house, on the ground that the Excise laws were so strict.

1596. Sir *G. Grey.*] It was a house belonging to Meux & Co.?—Yes.

1597. *Chairman.*] Was this a public-house in the neighbourhood?—Two doors from my rooms. I then said, "If you refuse me, will you refuse my sister?" They said, "No." I took the house, and my sister's name is over the public-house, and I am supplying my rooms through her, though I take all the profits of the public-house independently of my own dancing-rooms. But it interferes with my business; I cannot attend to my dancing-rooms as I ought to do; because, if a lot of rough men come into the public-house, I am obliged to be there to attend to that business.

1598. You furnish the capital for the public-house, and in fact it is your property?—Yes, I consider it so, though my sister's name is up over the door as the licensed party.

1599. If

1599. If you have a trustworthy person in the public-house you do not actually experience any loss or inconvenience?—No; she is perfectly trustworthy.

1600. You do not experience any inconvenience in that way?—I would rather sell the refreshments on my own premises, so that I might be able to look after my own company. Sometimes young men come in a little tipsy, such as medical students; last night one came, and threatened to shake my waiters and double them in two almost; I was obliged to be called; I cannot be in both places.

1601. Do you think there would be better order observed if you sold spirits on the premises?—I am certain of it; I have never had a case of drunkenness in my place for years; I am very particular; I never let a drunken man remain.

1602. I thought you said that some persons came to your premises when they were intoxicated?—That was at the public-house.

1603. Sir *G. Grey.*] What do you mean by saying that you never had a case of drunkenness on your premises for years; do you mean that you have never had any one come in and get drunk?—No.

1604. They do not get drunk on the premises?—No.

1605. *Chairman.*] If there is any objection to your not having spirits sold in the dancing-rooms, that is avoided by your having the public-house?—Yes; if a gentleman wants a glass of brandy-and-water it is fetched from the public-house, and it is at the public-house I get the profit.

1606. You complain of the state of the law as it affects you; that it does not do any public good, and puts you to some inconvenience?—Yes.

1607. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is the complaint which you make of the state of the law, that a public-house licence is not granted to you to enable you to sell spirits and beer upon the same premises in which the dancing saloon is?—Yes; we wish to have a licence to serve our own company.

1608. On the same premises on which the dancing goes on?—Yes.

1609. *Chairman.*] You say the law does not prevent spirits being consumed on your premises; all it does is to prevent your selling them, and making a profit on the liquor served to your customers at the dancing-rooms?—Yes.

1610. Mr. *Brown.*] Do both males and females attend your rooms?—Yes; several respectable tradesmen come there with their wives. I believe my place is carried on in as respectable a manner as can be. I took the liberty of going to several parties, and asking their opinion; and they agreed with me, that they would have no objection to pay any trifling sum for a licence to the revenue for the sale of wine, spirits and beer on their own establishments to their customers; not to go out like a public-house, but merely to serve their own people; a kind of tavern licence.

1611. Have you on any occasion had reason to refuse admission to women?—Yes; if they do not dance in a proper manner we tell them, and they are stopped at the door; the man at the door stops them; that is our plan.

1612. Lord *D. Stuart.*] The next time they come, you mean?—Yes; we do not make a disturbance in the room by putting them out; but if they come down stairs, we tell them they had better take their bonnets and go away.

1613. *Chairman.*] Do you believe you would lose any of the respectable portion of your company if your refreshments were confined to some innocent beverages like tea or coffee?—I do not say that I should lose them, but my company would go out to the public-houses.

1614. Do you think if no spirits were consumed, that other persons might not come there. Do you think you would not have as many people come?—I do not know; they all like a drop of brandy-and-water or a drop of gin-and-water after dancing, because they are warm.

1615. Sir *G. Grey.*] How many people come to your rooms of an evening?—They average about 200.

1616. What quantity of spirits is drunk in the dancing-room in the course of an evening?—About 30 glasses on an average.

1617. Any beer?—Yes.

1618. How much?—About 40 glasses.

1619. That is consumed on the dancing premises?—Yes; it is taken in by one or two of my men from the public-house; we have to carry them backwards and forwards.

Mr. *J. Caldwell.*

2 June 1854.

1620. *Chairman.*] Do you supply tea and coffee?—Yes; we did supply tea and coffee and chops, but we never could sell any.

1621. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you supply ginger-beer and lemonade?—Yes.

1622. Is that called for?—Yes; we average about a couple of dozen of an evening.

1623. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you mean to say that the dancing saloon would have no sufficient attraction to the people, unless there were connected with it the facility of obtaining spirituous liquors?—I think not; the people want a glass of wine, or negus, or brandy-and-water.

1624. *Chairman.*] Does that apply to both sexes; do you find that the ladies drink brandy-and-water?—Yes.

1625. And no inconvenience results from it?—No.

1626. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you limit the quantity of spirits consumed by one person?—If we found they were getting intoxicated we should certainly limit it.

1627. *Chairman.*] What means have you of removing any troublesome party?—They must go by our rules.

1628. Supposing they violate your rules, how do you remove them?—We have occasionally called in a policeman.

1629. Has he come?—I believe he has the privilege of coming into a licensed house.

1630. Yours is not a licensed house?—It is licensed for dancing. I do not think he has a right to come into a public-house.

1631. Have you ever known a policeman refuse to come when you have called him in?—Yes. Two brothers came to my rooms, and misbehaved themselves; I turned them out, and they said they would come in on the next Friday night. I told one of my men that he must assist me to put them out, that I would not have them in the place. My man would not assist me; I expect he had been feed with a little drink. I then said to the policeman that he must assist me to turn these parties out. He said, "I do not know whether I can come into your house." I said, "If you do not, I shall call out 'Murder!' and then you must come in"; and so I did. When these parties came, I said, "Well, as my servant objects to put one man out, I must do it myself. You shall not come into these premises any more; your behaviour is anything but proper." I took one of them by the shoulder, to put him out, his brother came up and struck me; I cried out, 'Murder!' and the policeman came in and took him into custody.

1632. The policeman came after the assault had been committed?—Yes.

1633. You were ready, I presume, to give him in charge?—The policeman said, "Do you wish to give him in charge?"

1634. Did the policeman take them when you said they were unwilling to go away?—Yes, the policeman took them.

1635. Sir *G. Grey.*] I suppose the policeman took them, after they were turned out of your establishment, as being disorderly in the street?—Yes, they were taken to Marlborough-street, and fined 5 *l.*

1636. *Chairman.*] You say you have been consulting persons who have establishments like your own, and that they are willing to pay a duty upon a licence being taken out?—Yes.

1637. You do not pay anything for the licence which you have at present?—No.

1638. Do you believe that persons keeping an establishment like yours would object to paying a duty to Government for a licence to open such an establishment as you have, and to have it registered?—I do not know regarding that. Mine is a large place; it is next in size to the Argyll Rooms.

1639. I understand that at present you have no right to call upon the police to keep order?—I think not, and yet the Argyll has; I do not know why I should not as well, if I like to pay.

1640. Supposing you were registered, and had any power of calling in the police to keep order, would not that be an object?—I think it would answer my purpose.

1641. Would it keep your establishment and other establishments like it generally, more respectable?—I should think so.

1642. Are

1642. Are there many such establishments as yours in London?—Not many; not many so big as mine.

1643. Of the same kind?—Yes; but they are smaller.

1644. Are they attended by the lower class of people?—Yes.

1645. Is dancing a common amusement with those people?—Yes.

1646. Is it becoming much more so?—Yes, I think it is becoming very popular.

1647. You say that tradesmen come to your establishment?—Yes; but they will not go to many rooms, because of the company that frequents them.

1648. Mr. *Lowe*.] Am I to understand that if a person is dancing improperly you will not allow him to remain that evening?—It is like looking after thieves; we are obliged to watch them all the time and check them.

1649. You do not check them during the evening?—While they are dancing we are obliged to stand before them, and tell them they are dancing improperly. Sometimes young men do not care how they dance; they have a nasty manner of dancing in the French style, called "Cancan."

1650. Do you find that respectable people will stay and witness that sort of thing?—I cannot help it. I say I do not want to turn a man out and make a disturbance; but if he gets very bad, I must do so.

1651. Those respectable people might go away if they liked?—Yes.

1652. They do not like?—No; they do not like to see this bad dancing.

1653. Sir *G. Grey*.] At what hour does your dancing-saloon open in the evening?—At eight o'clock; and we commence dancing at half-past eight.

1654. How long is it kept open?—Till a quarter to 12. We have once or twice a year a large ball.

1655. How late is that kept open?—Till about three.

1656. Sir *G. Goodman*.] Have you any other rooms but the saloon or your dancing-room?—Yes; our dancing-room is 24 feet high; underneath there are two refreshment rooms; one is used for meetings, and was occasionally occupied by the Jewish girls' school.

1657. Are there any private rooms?—There are no rooms for any meeting of any parties; there is a ladies' dressing-room, and a gentlemen's hat-room; we do not allow hats or bonnets upstairs.

1658. Sir *G. Grey*.] What class of persons frequent your rooms?—Some of the first noblemen come; there are some very respectable tradesmen round the neighbourhood; and a great many young people from the neighbourhood.

1659. Are there any from the working classes?—Yes.

1660. Are there many of that class?—The rooms are principally supported by the working classes. I do not think I saw but one man in my rooms come in with corduroy trowsers; the gentlemen are always dressed in black.

1661. You mean to say that the working classes, when they come, come dressed like gentlemen?—Yes; the middling class of people, I consider.

1662. *Chairman*.] You have stated in the letter which you addressed to the Committee, that the privilege which you seek is, to be allowed to do the same as the steamboats?—Yes. I think they pay 1 *l*. a year for the privilege of selling wines, beer, and spirits on board.

1663. You think that places of entertainment, like yours, ought to be put upon the same footing?—I think so. I think the privilege to the steam-boats extends to the summer months; ours is all the year round; and I have spoken to several parties, and they are willing to pay 5 *l*.

1664. You think you ought to be put on the same footing as steam-boats, in order to be able to supply refreshments to persons on your premises?—Yes; I think every one who keeps a place of entertainment ought to have the right to serve parties with the refreshments they require.

1665. Do you know it for a fact that steamboats pay an annual duty to the Government?—I was told so by a man who had been down for the licence; he told me that he had been down to pay for a licence for the season.

1666. You do not want to be put on the footing of a public-house, but you would be ready to pay, and persons in your business would be ready to pay 10 *l*. a year to the Government?—Yes; so as not to be under the surveillance of the Excise. Miss Geary, of the Hanover-square Rooms, has no licence.

1667. You might take out a beer licence, might you not?—Yes; but then we must close at 11 or 12 o'clock.

Mr *J. Caldwell.*

2 June 1854.

1668. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you mean that you would have to close the whole of the house at 11 o'clock, or that you must abstain from selling beer after 11 o'clock?—I believe we should have to close the whole of the house.

1669. Mr. *Brown.*] If you had a full public-house licence, with music and dancing on the premises, do not you think it would induce a greater number of people, knowing that you had a public-house licence, to become dissipated?—No; I should not open it during the day, merely for the gentlemen who come to take lessons. Sometimes we have 20 or 30 gentlemen in a day, taking lessons.

1670. *Chairman.*] You do not expect that you will get a licence, as they are given at present?—I do not know; I think I am almost in a position to say that I am respected in the neighbourhood, and I think I could almost get a licence if I tried.

1671. Are you canvassing the magistrates with that view?—No, I have never spoken to any one on the subject.

1672. Do you think the publicans would withdraw their opposition?—Yes, they begin to find my house an advantage; when parties leave my rooms, they may stand together at the corner of the street, and say, "We will have a parting glass." They do not have it all at my rooms.

1673. These people have gone to public-houses in the neighbourhood, because you had not a licence?—Yes, many of them.

1674. How will the publicans be benefited by you having a licence?—I should supply my own customers.

1675. That would be your benefit, I understand that the publicans find that you actually bring custom to their public-houses, would that be the case if you had a licence at your rooms?—Yes, it would be the same as round a theatre.

1676. You do not know of any persons who are not publicans, who oppose you?—No.

1677. There is nobody who thinks that such an establishment is inconvenient to the neighbourhood, and that it would be more so if spirits were sold there?—Mr. George, the churchwarden, would speak to my respectability.

1678. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Is there anything to prevent your sending till a late hour for the wine or spirits to the house which you have taken?—No, I am obliged to keep my house open if I have a ball, till three o'clock in the morning. I am obliged to keep the public-house open to supply my own rooms; in consequence of that, sometimes improper characters come into my public-house, and the policemen say, "You have a great many bad characters in your house, you must turn them out." Perhaps those men come in again, and I am obliged to be sent for and go and turn them out; I cannot keep a man to watch the door, and they will get in again, and it is very annoying to me.

1679. You have no fixed hour for closing your own premises?—No.

1680. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you know any establishment similar to your own which has a licence for selling beer and spirits on the premises?—The Holborn Casino have a beer licence, I believe they have a free vintner to sell wines; I do not think they sell spirits on the premises.

1681. Is that place licensed for music and dancing as yours is?—Yes.

1682. How long has it had two licences?—The free vintner has not a licence.

1683. You say that the owner of the Casino has taken out a common beerhouse licence?—Yes; at the Argyll Rooms I believe they have a free vintner to supply the wines.

1684. You do not know of any establishment similar to your own with a licensed victualler's licence?—None; not in my style; if any other parties have dancing it is at public-houses principally.

1685. Mr. *Brown.*] How far are your dancing-rooms from your public-house?—Ten doors.

1686. Are there any public-houses intervening?—There is one two doors off.

1687. The public-house and the dancing-rooms are separate and distinct premises in every respect?—Yes.

1688. *Chairman.*] Have you stated your case to the Committee?—I think so.

1689. Did you renew your application this year for a licence?—No.

1690. Why not?—I thought having a public-house it was hardly worth my while.

1691. What

1691. What bench of magistrates do you apply to?—At St. Anne's Church, in Dean-street; Mr. Whiskin and Mr. Mackinnon.

1692. To whom do the houses chiefly belong in your neighbourhood?—Messrs. Meux.

1693. Are Messrs. Meux your brewers?—Yes.

1694. Did they let you the house?—They let it to me for my sister.

1695. Are you bound to take your beer of Meux & Co.?—Yes.

1696. The house is taken of Messrs. Meux, is it not?—He holds the lease.

1697. Did you get the licence from the same bench of magistrates?—The licence is transferred to my sister.

1698. Do you consider that you took it of Messrs. Meux?—Yes.

1699. What was the name of the agent or servant of Messrs. Meux who was in there before you?—A person named Godfrey, a publican.

1700. The house belongs to Messrs. Meux?—Yes; the licence passes from one to another; they hold the lease, and the privilege of serving the beer.

1701. Do you know why Godfrey left the house?—Yes; he was a man very badly off, and not doing much business.

1702. Had he been put into the house by Messrs. Meux?—Yes; he took another little public-house, and since then he died. I rose the beer trade a great deal; he was taking 20*l.* a month, and I rose it to nearly 40*l.* a month.

1703. You would be able to sell the good-will for something more?—No; if I had a licence at the rooms, I should lose it.

1704. If you were to sell the good-will of this public-house which your sister occupies, you would sell it for more than you gave for it?—Yes; if I had a connexion with the dancing rooms; but if I left the dancing rooms I should lose the business.

1705. If anybody stood in the shoes of your sister now, it would be worth their while, with the connexion of your establishment, to pay more for it than you gave?—Yes, from the improved position of the street, it would be worth 100*l.* more perhaps. We have a little theatre opposite the house, and that has changed hands since I have been in the house.

1706. Are you a tenant-at-will of Messrs. Meux?—Yes; they can turn me out at any minute.

1707. If you were to sell any other beer than Meux's?—I could not.

1708. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is that by written agreement?—Yes.

1709. *Chairman.*] How do you manage about spirits?—Messrs. Meux do not meddle with the spirits or the ales; some brewers have ales as well as beer.

1710. Do you pay so much for the beer to the brewers?—Yes.

1711. Do you ascertain the quality before you serve it to your customers?—We take it as it comes in, at so much a gallon.

1712. Have you raised it lately?—Yes.

1313. Is that an arrangement which the brewers have made?—It is a mutual understanding between the other publicans. The brewers have raised it a farthing a pot, and the publicans round the neighbourhood have raised it a halfpenny a pot.

1714. The brewers did not raise the beer upon the pot?—They rose it so much a barrel; 3*s.* or 4*s.* a barrel.

1715. That would be a farthing a quart?—Yes.

1716. If the brewers charge you a farthing a quart more, where is the propriety of your charging the consumers of the beer a halfpenny a pot more?—It is on account of the half pints. The charge of a halfpenny a pot extra puts it in the publican's hands to give a better article. They never could serve the article as they have it from the brewer with any profit.

1717. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you mean to say that since you have charged a halfpenny a pot extra you have sold better beer?—I know that I have. I cannot speak as to others.

1718. The brewers charge you a farthing a pot increase for the beer which you sell; have they supplied you with better beer than they did before?—I cannot say that they have.

1719. Then how are you able to supply better beer now than you did formerly?—I do not dash it so much.

1720. What do you mean by dashing it?—Pumping the New River into it.

Mr. *J. Caldwell.*

2 June 1854.

1721. Mr. *Lowe.*] You could not live by selling the beer at 3 *d.* a pot?—No; I am paying 1 *s.* a gallon for the beer, and I cannot sell it at 3 *d.* a pot and get a living.

1722. Sir *G. Grey.*] Does the additional charge of one farthing a pot enable you to dash it less?—Yes.

1723. Do you find that your customers consume more in quantity?—They do not consume more, that I am aware of. I find a great many people changing their trade now.

1724. Do you mean that people come to your house rather than to others?—They come to me to ask the price.

1725. In order to see where they can get the beer cheapest and best?—Yes.

1726. Do you dash the beer with nothing but the New River?—No.

1727. Do you put no other admixture into the beer at all?—No, nothing else.

1728. *Chairman.*] You do not know that there are such things as salt and sugar used in beer?—I have heard of such things, but I do not use them.

1729. And something to give it bulk and flavour?—There are such things in the trade, I know.

1730. Is there not a little copperas used, to give it a head?—I never use any such thing.

1731. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is that called dashing too?—I do not know.

1732. Mr. *Brown.*] How long will beer keep without souring, if you dash it?—I do not know.

1733. If you were to dash it to-day, would it be good to-morrow?—I do not know.

1734. Is the dashing done at the time that you serve it?—No; I never use any mixture.

1735. *Chairman.*] Do you dash the beer when it first comes from the brewer, or is it done as you serve it to your customers?—It is done when it is fined down.

1736. Do you dash it just before you begin drawing it off?—When we find one puncheon is getting down, we fine another.

1737. And then you tap the New River?—Yes.

1738. Sir *G. Gre.*] What proportion of New River water do you dash the beer with?—If I have a particular beer, and I pay 1 *s.* a gallon, and I have to sell it out at 3 *d.* a pot, I can get nothing by it, but if I put a pail of liquor into it, I must get that amount of profit.

1739. You now sell the beer at 3½ *d.* a pot?—Yes, over the bar; and 4 *d.* I sell as good beer as you can get in the neighbourhood.

1740. *Chairman.*] You say that there is a certain amount which the consumers require to drink?—Yes.

1741. Would they not prefer good beer to this necessary mixture that takes place, of New River water?—Yes; there is what I should call five per cent. of water put in the beer.

1742. Supposing that the brewers could afford to let you have beer at a rate to enable you to live by selling it, would there not be necessarily a much greater consumption of malt?—I do not know much about the public-house trade. I have been in this house about three years. I know that one brewer supplies one house, and one another, and that most publicans have a system of doing something to their beer.

1743. There is a difference in price for the same quantity of the same article; some charge 3 *d.* and some charge 4 *d.*?—Yes.

1744. Have you the least doubt that every publican who sells beer at 3 *d.* a pot, dashes it in some way, to enable him to sell it at 3 *d.*?—They cannot sell it at 3 *d.* a pot genuine from the brewer's.

1745. Is it genuine at 4 *d.* a pot?—I should say so.

1746. Are there any publicans in your neighbourhood who sell beer at 4 *d.* a pot?—Yes.

1747. Is it as good as you sell now at 3½ *d.*?—I sell mine at 4 *d.* over the bar.

1748. You used to sell it at 3 *d.*?—Yes. I rose it to 4 *d.* when the change in price

price took place. I said, "I will have no dashing at all; I will sell the article genuine, and I will have a good price."

1749. If you had risen the beer only a halfpenny a pot, could you have dispensed with the dashing?—No.

1750. You have advanced it a penny?—Yes.

1751. Then it must be an extraordinary good article?—It is genuine as it comes from the brewery. I serve the pure liquor; and when I sold at 3*d.* I did not.

1752. Are you aware whether there is anything done to the beer before you get it, dashing or anything else?—No, I believe it is drawn from the bulk.

1753. Do the brewers let you know the strength and quality of the beer before you have it?—No, I do not know anything of the process.

1754. Do you know at all how the publicans deal with the brewers when they are not quite dependent; do not they require to know the strength of the beer they take?—I believe so; a free house is supplied a little lower.

1755. If the publicans knew precisely at what strength the brewers supplied the beer, it would be easy to tell what was wanted in the beer?—No doubt.

1756. Have you ever had customers come back and say that they have tested the beer, and found that something had been done to it?—No.

1757. Sir *G. Grey.*] You said that there was an arrangement between you and the brewers that you should sell only their beer; is there any agreement which prohibits you from dashing it beyond a certain amount?—No.

1758. The brewer supplies the beer, and leaves the publican to mix anything with it that he likes?—Yes; but it is to the publican's advantage to sell the best article that he can without doing anything to it.

1759. Is there anything in the agreement between the brewer and the publican, to restrict the publican from mixing beer with any other materials?—No.

1760. *Chairman.*] The brewer has a great interest in the publican selling a good article, in order to show a good trade whenever he transfers the license?—He transfers the profit to his own pocket.

1761. Has not the brewer a great interest in showing a good trade whenever he transfers the license to a person coming into the house?—Yes.

1762. That is shown by the quantity sold?—Yes.

1763. By the number of barrels which the publican has been in the habit of consuming?—Yes.

1764. And that of course depends upon whether the beer is sold genuine or dashed?—Yes.

1765. Mr. *Brown.*] What is the process of fining down?—We put three or four quarts of finings into the barrel when it comes in; I believe it is isinglass. There is a preparation which you see soaking in the brewhouses; I do not know what the article is; it is sent in a small nine-gallon cask to us, and we put two or three quarts into the beer just before we want it.

1766. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you dash the spirits as well as the beer?—Yes, we are obliged to do so; we pay 12*s.* a gallon for gin, and we cannot sell it for 10*s.* 8*d.* a gallon without doing something.

1767. *Chairman.*] You have a distiller as well as a brewer?—Yes.

1768. The distiller has nothing to do with the house?—Nothing at all.

1769. You have an arrangement with him to supply spirits, and the prices will not admit of your selling a genuine article?—No; because gin is raised; you are obliged to give 12*s.* a gallon, and you cannot sell it for 10*s.* 8*d.* genuine.

1770. Do you resort to the New River in the case of gin?—I am obliged to do so; to sell it at 4*d.* a quartern we must do it.

1771. Mr. *Brown.*] In your particular case have you anything like a gin palace?—People can have anything they like over the bar.

1772. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is it a public-house that you occupy, or is it what is called a gin palace?—No, it is not a gin palace.

1773. *Chairman.*] Is there anything mixed with the gin besides the New River?—Sugar; we have it unsweetened, and we sweeten it; I do not know what other people do, but I do nothing else.

1774. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you keep your public-house open on Sunday?—We open at one o'clock.

Mr. J. Caldwell. 2 June 1854.

1775. Do you keep it open for the rest of the day?—Till three. Many of my neighbours do not shut up, as we do, till half-past four; and then they are open till 12 o'clock at night.

1776. Is your dancing saloon open on Sundays?—No.

1777. You do not keep the public-house open on Sunday for the sake of supplying the dancing-saloon?—No; we have a Jewish school at the dancing-room sometimes on Sunday.

1778. *Chairman.*] Is that on our Sunday?—Yes.

1779. The examination of the Jewish children takes place on our Sunday?—Yes.

1780. Is that of any use to the tap?—No, I do not think it is.

1781. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do many persons frequent your public-house on Sunday afternoons and evenings?—Very few.

1782. Do you mean that there are fewer on Sunday than on ordinary days? Yes; it is hardly worth my while to keep the house open.

1783. *Chairman.*] Then you would not object to close your house on Sunday if it was general?—No.

1784. Mr. *Brown.*] You have not the attraction of the dancing on the Sunday evening?—No.

1785. *Chairman.*] Is there not a theatre in your street?—Yes; right opposite my public-house.

1786. You have nothing to do with it?—No.

1787. Have you been in communication with the proprietors of the theatre upon this matter?—No.

1788. Have not they made a similar application with yourself?—I never asked them the question. They have a man that sells things. I do not know how the theatres are all managed, but I think they would come under the same rule, paying for a licence, the same as myself.

1789. Sir *G. Grey.*] What things does this man sell?—He sells spirits, in the same way that I used.

1790. Do you mean that they have a man who sells beer and spirits?—I believe they have a beer licence, and the spirits they send out for to a neighbouring public-house.

1791. *Chairman.*] Is it a part of your recommendation, and of those in your trade, that licences should be granted to persons instead of particular houses?—That never entered my thoughts. I went last night to Mr. Lawson, in Gower-street, who is a respectable man, and who has nice parties of 60 or 70; and I went to the Hanover-square Rooms; and I went from there to St. Martin's, and Foley-place; and all those proprietors agreed that they were willing to pay something for a licence to serve their own people.

1792. Your plan goes to this extent, that you would be ready to be responsible for the good order of your house, if you had a licence given to you in person?—Yes.

Mr. *Nathaniel Card,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. N. Card.

1793. *Chairman.*] YOU belong to some association, I believe?—I am Treasurer of the United Kingdom Alliance for the total and immediate suppression of the traffic in all intoxicating liquors as beverages.

1794. How long have you been so?—I have been so 12 months on the 1st of June.

1795. You have been in different parts of the country on behalf of that association?—I have.

1796. Have you been addressing public meetings?—I have not addressed public meetings myself, except in a few instances, along with others. We have two lecturers employed for the purpose of addressing public meetings; we have formed auxiliaries in various parts of the country; we have formed auxiliaries in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Falkirk, Dumfries, Galashiels, Dunfermline, Dublin, Belfast, Armagh, Kilkenny, Waterford, Cork, Portadown, Huddersfield, Bradford, Hull, Bridlington, Wigan, Bolton, Colne, Bury, Yarmouth, Derby, Rochdale, Liverpool, Newcastle, and several other towns.

1797. There have been public meetings held at each of those towns in furtherance of your object?—There have been in each of them large public meetings, open

open meetings, and in each case we solicited any party to come forward to show opposition; but there were only two or three instances; and of the two or three persons who held up their hands against us, one was intoxicated at the time.

1798. Those meetings have been addressed by lecturers, then a resolution has been moved in favour of the view taken by the lecturer?—Yes; in all instances they were carried unanimously, except in the cases which I have referred to.

1799. Are you able to tell the Committee whether those meetings were fully attended?—The attendance has usually been very large, ranging from 300 to 3,000. In Bradford at one meeting in the large St. George's Hall, nearly 4,000 attended, who were most respectable parties.

1800. Can you state what the resolution was which they passed?—They passed resolutions approving the constitution of the society, and the declaration of the general council: "The object of the alliance shall be to call forth and direct an enlightened public opinion to procure the total and immediate legislative suppression of the traffic in all intoxicating liquors as beverages."

1801. Is that the resolution which was passed at those meetings?—One of them, we usually pass the declaration of the General Council.

1802. Was the same resolution adopted at all the meetings?—The substance of it; we always affirm the principle of total and immediate prohibition.

1803. Do you say that 4,000 attended at Bradford when that resolution was put, and that it was carried unanimously?—Yes.

1804. Were you present?—I was present.

1805. What class of persons attended?—There were some of the poorer lass, but the majority were rather of the better class; I may instance in proof of that that there were 30 *l.* collected there afterwards.

1806. To further the objects of the association?—Yes, there was no charge for admission.

1807. You have been only hitherto engaged in the lecturing and enlightening the people upon the advantages of prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors?—That is all, we have been only 12 months formed.

1808. Has the result been that you found people very ready to listen to the lecturers, and to give their general assent to their propositions?—Yes; in several places where we could not carry a resolution for Sunday closing, we have carried a resolution for the total abolition of the liquor traffic.

1809. Is it one of your resolutions that you should commence by praying the Legislature to amend the law, so far as to close the public-houses on Sunday?—We desire to see the houses closed on Sunday, but at the same time we look for the entire suppression.

1810. Is there any part of your resolution that advocates that alone?—No, not as a society.

1811. Do you collect that persons are not only disposed to go to that extent, but much further?—I have visited for that purpose, with a missionary, cellars and garrets and very wretched hovels, and generally on a Monday, or perhaps on Tuesday in the morning, and my experience is, that in all cases (I do not know whether I have met with any exceptions) they would prefer going for the entire suppression to going for the suppression of the Sunday traffic. I am afraid the Committee are not prepared to go quite so far, but I am quite prepared to say that the people generally would consider it a very great blessing if the public-houses were closed not only on Sunday, but altogether, as far as the sale of strong drink is concerned.

1812. You found, from your intercourse with the people, that they would consider closing the public-houses on Sunday a great improvement in the present law, and a great advantage?—Yes, that is quite my opinion.

1813. Is your opinion founded upon any distinct experience of the evils of the houses being open, particularly on Sunday?—It is. I have visited those places, and the residences of the poor people, with the object of making that inquiry, and have made inquiry for the purpose of gaining a little experience in the Alliance matters; I have prepared a few notes of what the Alliance has already done.

1814. What has been the result of your labours beyond that of holding meetings and getting assent to your propositions?—We have 380 official members enrolled upon the General Council. This is one of the addresses containing

Mr. *N. Card.*

2 June 1854.

names which the Committee will know, of magistrates, merchants, bankers and others; the list includes about 120 clergymen and ministers of religion.

1815. Clergymen of the Church of England?—Yes, clergymen and other ministers of religion. We have already issued 4,500 cards of membership; we issue weekly 500 copies of the "Atlas," newspaper; we have a page in that journal entirely devoted to the object. We have held above 150 meetings in various parts of the kingdom, and in every case the resolutions have been passed with acclamation, and unanimously, with the exception of the instances which I have mentioned.

1816. Is this all within one twelvemonth?—From the 1st of June 1853. We have had two lecturers, Dr. Lees and the Rev. Dr. Perrey. Dr. Lees was sent over to America last September, for the purpose of inquiring into the state of things there, and how the liquor law worked.

1817. The Maine law?—It is the same law; it is in five other states. The executive have resolved to offer 100 guineas for the best essay, 30 guineas for the second, and 20 for the third, on the prohibition of the liquor traffic. On the 8th of July, we publish a separate newspaper; we cannot get room in the newspapers for the subjects continually arising in all those auxiliaries which have been formed in various parts of the kingdom.

1818. What was the result of the inquiry made by this person in the United States; are the people satisfied with the law?—Yes; they are perfectly satisfied.

1819. They do not find any inconvenience; the law is not very generally evaded?—Dr. Lees mentioned to me that he went out in the night-time as well as in the day, and endeavoured to get some intoxicating liquor either clandestinely or openly.

1820. In what part?—Both in Maine and Vermont, and some other of the States, he stated to me that if he was to have given a sovereign for a glass of any kind of intoxicating liquor, he could not have got it either clandestinely or otherwise, in the city of Portland, Maine.

1821. Was this the person whom you mentioned?—Yes, Dr. Lees of Leeds. Our meetings have been headed frequently by magistrates, mayors, sheriffs, clergymen, aldermen, town councillors and other persons of social influence and standing, and have been held in town halls, temperance halls, churches, chapels, school rooms, lecture rooms, athenæums and mechanics institutions.

1822. In what churches have meetings been held?—I am not prepared with the names. The meetings were generally well reported in the local press, and in numbers of instances editors have given leading articles in favour of the movement; in one meeting at Colchester, a brewer who was actively engaged in business, seconded a vote of thanks to Dr. Lees for his lecture, and paid a subscription to be enrolled as a member of the alliance.

1823. Were those brewers in business?—Yes, we have several brewers who are favourable, but none have come out so publicly as the one referred to.

1824. Sir *G. Grey.*] Does membership pledge them to be total abstainers themselves?—No, they take a card of membership by subscribing 1*s.* or upwards, and for that they receive tracts and other information, and it is a kind of pledge in favour of our cause for the entire suppression, there is no pledge of abstinence required.

1825. It does not imply any pledge as to their own individual practice?—None whatever; on another occasion a publican and a brewer held up their hands for the resolution against the traffic and in favour of the Maine law. I may remark that many drunkards have been known to say, they wished the Alliance might succeed. I have visited many drunkards, I have devoted several days a week frequently, sometimes I have visited drunkards that I know to be confirmed drunkards, and they have almost unanimously declared their wish that the liquor was entirely done away with.

1826. The power of selling it, I suppose you mean?—The power of selling it.

1827. When they are sober they feel the evil effects of drunkenness?—They will feel a little sore against the traffic after drinking, perhaps, on Sunday.

1828. But they drink again the next Sunday?—Yes. The Committee know that when any habit of that kind is formed it is very difficult to get rid of it.

1829. Lord *D. Stuart.*] They want the temptation removed out of their way?—Yes.

1830. Mr. *Brown.*] But of 13,000 clergymen 120 seems a small number?—We

We have been only 12 months in existence; these have all given written adhesion as official members on the general council. We have others who are not on the council.

1831. *Chairman.*] Have you heard that the State of New York has recently attempted to follow the example of Maine, and that a majority in the Senate and in the House of Representatives were decidedly in favour of the change?—It is the case that a large majority, at least two-thirds, were in favour of it. The State of New York contains upwards of three millions inhabitants, and the measure passed by a large majority both houses, and would have come into operation on the 1st December next, but the Governor vetoed it.

1832. Has anything taken place since then?—I have received a letter which says, "You have heard, I suppose, of the passage of the Maine law in the Legislature of the State of New York, by large majorities; but the Governor has put his veto upon the Bill, and throws us all back; it is arousing up a feeling on the subject which will we think secure us a governor the next year who will sign the Bill. But in such a vast commercial state, with its immense distilleries and breweries, we shall yet have a hard contest. In other states the battle is going on vigorously, and we cannot but believe we shall be able from time to time to send you good tidings." The next election will take place in November, and the Maine law will be the great issue.

1833. Lord *D. Stuart.*] You stated that there were five States in the Union that adopt the liquor law; we have, in the Appendix to last year's evidence, a paper signed by yourself, which mentions that there are seven States adopting the liquor law?—Perhaps there are seven; I do not know exactly. There are a few lines in a tract published by the "Alliance," which tell the number: "The law for the suppression of tippling-houses and dram-shops, known as the Maine law, was passed by the Legislature of that State in May 1851, and approved by the Governor on the 2d of June. In the month of March 1852, a similar law was adopted by the territory of Minnesota; on the 7th of May in the same year by the State of Rhode Island; on the 22d by the State of Massachusetts; on the 20th of December by the Legislature of Vermont; and in a few months after by the Legislature of Michigan." It has been passed in several other States, but has been lost through some technicality.

1834. *Chairman.*] Have you any facts with respect to its being adopted in New Brunswick?—Yes, it was adopted in New Brunswick partially; it was merely prohibiting the sale of spirits and wines.

1835. Not of malt liquor?—No; parties have written to us, stating that no doubt it will be a failure, because it is only a half measure; that many persons got drunk with the malt liquor, and caused great disturbances; whereas, in Maine and the other States, they had submitted without any disturbance whatever.

1836. Is there any revenue derived from spirits in New Brunswick?—Yes.

1837. Was there any revenue derived from spirits in those states where the Maine law was adopted?—I am not aware; I think the Government need not be much afraid of the loss of revenue in this respect. I have been a close observer for now nearly 20 years of the temperance movement. At the time Theobald Matthew was so active in Ireland, the revenue fell off 300,000 *l.* upon liquors; but when the revenue was made up for Ireland, it was found that it amounted to 390,000 *l.*, which was 90,000 *l.* profit upon the gross revenue.

1838. The revenue was in excess 90,000 *l.* that year?—Yes, you will find that to be the fact by the Returns.

1839. Mr. *Brown.*] What was it made up by?—I think we observe that a drunkard, when he abandons his habit of drinking, soon begins to employ workmen, such as tailors and shoemakers, and has more money to spend on tea and sugar and other excisable articles.

1840. Is there any Return of the articles upon which there was that gain of revenue; do you recollect what articles made up the loss of revenue upon spirits in Ireland?—I merely took it from the Return to the House of Commons.

1841. *Chairman.*] Do you remember in what year it was that the revenue in Ireland failed upon spirits from the temperance movement?—It was in the year that Theobald Mathew was so active; he shut up nearly all the distilleries in

Mr. *N. Card.*

2 June 1854.

Cork and Dublin. This movement began in 1839, and continued to make progress to the end of 1841.

1842. Are you making this statement from what you have seen?—Yes, I have seen it in print; I took the figures from the Returns.

1843. Sir *J. Pakington.*] But you forget the year?—I do; it was the first year of Theobald Mathew's movement.

1844. *Chairman.*] Have you made any calculations which can be trusted as to the amount in quantity and value of the intoxicating liquors sold annually in this country?—We have calculated that the amount spent in drink is more than the whole of our exports, we consider that there is a vast property wasted in the liquor traffic, something like 100,000,000 *l.* annually.

1845. Mr. *Brown.*] You could at the same time ascertain upon what exciseable articles the revenue increased in Ireland, to make up the decrease which took place in spirits?—Yes.

1846. *Chairman.*] You are aware of the change which took place in Scotland last year from the law which precludes the sale of liquors at all on Sundays?—Yes.

1847. Have you seen anybody who has come from Scotland since the Act has been in operation, and who has been able to see the effect in the large cities on the Sunday?—This is our annual meeting in London, and several friends who are pretty active in the same cause are in town. I saw a gentleman yesterday, and had a long conversation with him respecting the working of the Scotch Act, and his expression was that it was like a miracle; there was no disturbance, but all were quiet. He went through the various back streets purposely to examine them, and make himself acquainted with their state, and he found that the Act was very well carried out.

1848. Sir *G. Grey.*] He spoke from the experience of only one Sunday?—Two Sundays.

1849. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Did he speak of any particular town?—Edinburgh.

1850. *Chairman.*] He spoke of these Sundays in contrast with the other Sundays, and the way in which they were spent before the law changed?—Yes.

1851. Did he say whether any anger was expressed by the people at finding their haunts closed on Sunday?—No.

1852. He is not aware of any inconvenience which the people have suffered?—None whatever; he was quite delighted with the change.

1853. Is he engaged in this association?—No.

1854. Is he one of your society?—Yes; he is a very respectable man, and a man very active in the town in which he lives.

1855. He does not apprehend that the Scotch Act will be a failure in any respect?—No.

1856. Have you been in Scotland?—Not for some time.

1857. You have not visited Scotland upon this mission?—No.

1858. I believe your residence is in Manchester?—Yes.

1859. Is drunkenness carried to a great excess in Manchester?—I think it is.

1860. Have you made it a subject of inquiry?—Yes; the public-houses are pretty well conducted in the matter of police laws. I have some statistics upon that subject. We have taken 1,000 public-houses, not the whole; but the whole 1,900 will be finished next Sunday.

1861. Have you seen the Return which has been made to Parliament, showing the number of persons taken up, said to be drunk and disorderly?—I have.

1862. Did it appear to you that in comparison with other towns, the number in Manchester in the course of a year was very small?—Very small indeed; Joseph Brotherton had an interview with one of the magistrates to know how it was.

1863. Do you allude to Mr. Brotherton, the Member for Salford?—Yes; I have also seen some of the heads of the police; it is their practice that if a man is taken up tipsy, he will be let out in the morning if he has not been disturbing the peace; it is the business of the police to see them on their way home.

1864. The policeman's first duty is to take them home if they are not disorderly; and if they are disorderly, and the case has to be brought before the magistrates he has to take them to some place to lock them up, and then appear against them the next morning?—Yes.

367

Mr. *N. Card.*

2 June 1854.

1865. Lord *D. Stuart.*] What is done if they are not disorderly?—The police assist them; they have a certain inducement to see them home or to keep them quiet, because the policemen have to appear before the magistrate in their own time; they have a certain time to themselves, and it is during that time that they have to appear in the police court against them, and of course that is an infringement upon their leisure time.

1866. *Chairman.*] So that if every policeman were to bring every disorderly person that he found at night, before the magistrate the next morning, he would have no rest?—Very little.

1867. Therefore his inducement is very strong not to lock them up?—Yes.

1868. Still he has that special duty to walk home with them?—Yes, or to pass them on to the next policeman.

1869. The consequence, therefore, is that not many of these cases come before the magistrates?—Yes; the complaints in Manchester against the public-houses were 108, or 22 per cent.; and the complaints against the beer-houses were 694, or 47 per cent.

1870. Will you state the whole number of public-houses and beerhouses in Manchester?—The number of public-houses in Manchester is 481, and the number of beerhouses is 1,465.

1871. Sir *G. Grey.*] What is the population of Manchester?—About 330,000; Manchester is divided into four police districts, A., B., C., and D.

1872. Mr. *Lowe.*] Can you state the nature of the complaints?—No; I have reported as being convicted drunk and incapable, 118.

1873. I am speaking of the complaints against the keepers of the beerhouses?—Those complaints would be generally for selling at illegal hours.

1874. That is an offence which would not be applicable to licensed public-houses, because the keepers of public-houses are allowed to sell at hours at which the beerhouses are closed?—Yes.

1875. *Chairman.*] You have been making some inquiries personally as to the conduct of these houses, and with respect to the disorderly conduct of the people frequenting them, and the number of persons that you have watched into these houses; it appears that a very small number are returned as disorderly?—That led us to employ a committee, not the Alliance Committee, but about 150 young men, principally Sunday-school teachers. Perhaps I had better state that those statistics are not quite finished; we have only taken 869 houses. There have been 150 young men employed with peas in their pockets; they have three pockets, one for men, another for women, and another for children. They stand opposite the house, and as the people go in they place the peas in their respective pockets.

1876. Has that been done upon Sunday?—Yes; from half-past twelve in the day till three, and again from half-past four till ten. Many houses are open a considerable time later. We have only half done taking the number of visits, many of the people paid two visits and three visits; we merely took the visits.

1877. You take the number of distinct visits?—Yes; 78,168 men went in on one Sunday, 44,838 women, and 11,302 children. These were visits to 869 houses only.

1878. Can you specify what age the children appeared to be?—We took them as children at about 14; many are older than they appear from their size. I should call them children at 14 and under. I may mention that there were 60 police who stopped in the public-houses from five minutes to half an hour. In one street there are 35 public-houses and beershops, pretty near to each other; and in that one street, which is Dean's-gate, there were 16,000 visits paid on one Sunday. In one house alone, with respect to which we rather doubted the correctness of our information, and which I attended to myself afterwards for half a day, when I found we were getting up to the average I left it; there were 3,306 visits to that one house, which was a public-house, of which number about one-third were females.

1879. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Was that the afternoon of the day?—The lawful hours up to 10 o'clock at night.

1880. Sir *J. Pakington.*] On Sunday?—Yes.

1881. Sir *G. Grey.*] What was that house to which all those visits were paid, was it a regular public-house, or what is called a ginshop?—The people were

Mr. *N. Card.*

2 June 1854.

allowed to sit down. I do not know the distinction; we have not many ginshops in Manchester.

1882. Do the people go in and out at one door, or do they pass in at one door and out at another?—Most of the public-houses in Manchester have two doors.

1883. *Chairman.*] This description applies to every place where intoxicating drinks are sold?—Yes, except houses where provisions are sold, which we have not taken. In one street to which I have alluded, where the 16,000 were, we took the number twice or three times in the street to see how many persons were drinking about the same time in that street, and we found about 5,000 persons. Of course they were different persons at different hours.

1884. Does your inquiry lead you to know how many persons are in those during the early part of Sunday?—We did think of taking those hours, but we thought it better for information to take merely the lawful hours.

1885. Have you reason to believe that the public-houses are much frequented on Sunday before half-past 12?—Yes, I believe they are.

1886. Sir *G. Grey.*] Has there been any change in the habits of the people on Sunday since the public-houses have been closed up to one o'clock?—A very considerable change.

1887. Has there been an improvement?—Yes.

1888. Although you think that beer or spirits are sold illegally before one o'clock on Sunday to a certain extent, yet there has been an improvement in consequence of the closing the houses till that hour?—Yes; there is a fear in frequenting the houses at unlawful hours; they cannot go in publicly, at least they do not appear.

1889. *Chairman.*] Has there been any public meeting of this association in Manchester?—Yes; the inauguration meeting was there on the 26th of October, attended by gentlemen from all parts of the country, and from Scotland and Ireland. It was very numerously attended; the Corn Exchange was crowded, and hundreds could not gain admission.

1890. Were any resolutions passed?—Yes; the constitution and declaration were read, as they are generally read at the public meetings; also the following resolutions were adopted unanimously, and with acclamation:—

1. That the prime end of social legislation is to secure the utmost protection to the citizen against all destructive acts and demoralizing agencies in the commonwealth.
2. That the traffic of intoxicating liquors, as beverages, is always and inevitably productive of immense injury to the social and material interests of the nation.
3. That this meeting regards the liquor vending establishments of the country as a source of temptation and a nursery of crime, incompatible with the advance of society in the path of true civilization, and earnestly calls on all patriotic citizens and enlightened statesmen, to aid in the work of the total and immediate suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquors.
4. That this meeting cordially approves of the object and constitution of the United Kingdom Alliance, for procuring the Legislative Prohibition of the Traffic in Intoxicating Beverages, and accords to that movement its hearty sanction and support.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,
Walter C. Trevelyan, Chairman.

1891. Was the meeting bound by that declaration; did they pass it?—They passed it unanimously; the meeting entered into large subscriptions, and in a few minutes 900 *l.* were subscribed.

1892. Sir *G. Grey.*] In what manner is that money applied?—In printing tracts, in forming the various auxiliaries, and in paying lecturers.

1893. Is it applied with a view to influence the public mind upon the subject?—Yes. This is the declaration referred to: "The General Council of the United Kingdom Alliance, hereby affirm and record the following declaration. 1st. That it is neither right nor politic for the State to afford legal protection and sanction to any traffic, or system that tends to increase crime, to waste the national resources, to corrupt the social habits, and to destroy the health and lives of the people. 2d. That the traffic in intoxicating liquors, as common beverages, is inimical to the true interests of individuals, and destructive of the order and welfare of society, and ought therefore to be prohibited. 3d. That the history and results of all past legislation in regard to the liquor traffic abundantly prove that it is impossible to satisfactorily limit or regulate a system so essentially mischievous in its tendencies. 4th. That no considerations of private

private gain or public revenue can justify the upholding of a system so utterly wrong in principle, suicidal in policy, and disastrous in result, as the traffic in intoxicating liquors. 5th. That the legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic is perfectly compatible with rational liberty, and with all the claims of justice and legitimate commerce. 6th. That the legislative suppression of the liquor traffic would be highly conducive to the development of a progressive civilization. 7th. That rising above class, sectarian, or party considerations, all good citizens should combine to procure an enactment prohibiting the sale of intoxicating beverages as affording most efficient aid in removing the appalling evil of intemperance. Adopted unanimously at the First Meeting of General Council, held in Manchester, 26th October 1853," at which Sir Walter Trevelyan presided.

1894. Do you know Liverpool as well as Manchester?—I am not so well acquainted with Liverpool as I am with Manchester.

1895. There is a Return in the Appendix to the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committee last year, which professes to give a comparison of eight of the largest towns of England, Scotland, and Ireland, as to cases of drunkenness brought under the notice of the police. The population of Liverpool is stated to be 376,065, and the cases of drunkenness brought under the notice of the police, 18,522, which is 1 in 20 of the population. Whereas in Manchester, out of a population of 316,213 only 787 cases were brought under the notice of the police, or 1 in 401 of the population. Can you account for the great difference between Liverpool and Manchester, which are both large places, and not far from each other?—No; that is what led to this inquiry.

1896. Do you believe that there is more drunkenness in Liverpool, or that the police are more observant of cases of drunkenness there than in Manchester?—I should think there was more riotous conduct in Liverpool as the result of drunkenness, and that the police are more observant and efficient. The magistrates are more careful in issuing licenses in Manchester.

1897. You have stated the number of persons whom you watched into the public-houses on Sunday in Manchester, are there many cases of drunkenness in the streets on Sunday in Manchester?—In the afternoon there are many, but principally in the low back streets.

1898. Are those cases overlooked by the police?—As I stated before, if they are not riotous, but merely staggering, what we should call drunk, and are going quietly home or going to another house, they are not molested by the police.

1899. In Liverpool the cases are of a nature which requires the interposition of the police more than they do in Manchester?—I am rather inclined to think so, though I cannot speak from experience.

1900. Mr. *Brown.*] May not the difference arise from Liverpool being a seaport town, and from the number of sailors coming from sea, who are likely to be riotous?—Yes, I think so, in a great measure.

1901. Sir *G. Grey.*] At those meetings which you have held, has the attendance been in a very small proportion to the population of the places in which they have been held?—No; in Bradford we held a meeting at St. George's Hall, at which about 4,000 attended.

1902. Do you know the population of Newcastle-upon-Tyne?—No; in every case I am aware that we procured the largest building in the town.

1903. Was the meeting large at Newcastle?—Yes.

1904. Do you suppose that an Act, if passed this Session, prohibiting, as in those American States, the sale of intoxicating liquors, could be enforced in England, or in any of those large towns in which your meetings have been held?—If you are prepared to face the entire law, I think the people would submit to it.

1905. Do you mean a law entirely prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors at any time?—Yes; if the people were reasoned with when they are not excited, they would submit to it.

1906. Do you think that such an Act could be enforced in England, Ireland, and Scotland?—I should think in a very short time it could; I do not know with respect to a large place like London; I will just mention from my own experience that when parties are not excited with drink, they wish it to be kept away from them; when they are excited with drink, either beer, cider, wine, or spirits, they are inclined to be riotous; but I do believe that the people of England have sufficient sense, if it was entirely prohibited, and they were not excited with it, to submit to such a system.

Mr. *N. Card.*

2 June 1854.

1907. Do you think, supposing an Act of Parliament were passed entirely prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, that any Government could practically enforce, in this country, and throughout the United Kingdom, absolute abstinence from the consumption of ardent spirits?—We merely go for the prohibition of traffic in drink.

1908. Do you think that illicit traffic could be effectually suppressed?—I do; much easier than at present. In Maine, in America, if they see a man drunk, it is a proof that he has procured drink somewhere.

1909. Was not it the case that before that Act was passed it received the public assent of a large proportion of the population?—I am quite aware that the people must be educated to that point.

1910. Is it not the case that that law has only been passed after a public assent to the law has been given by a very large proportion of the population?—That is the case. You will recollect that in America there is universal suffrage, and it is the voice of the people that we want. I think, as I have stated before, if we were allowed to take the voice of the people, our committee would undertake to produce a majority of the people. But it is very different, when the case is, as I understand it is in Birmingham, that the brewers and publicans return the Members.

1911. With regard to Sunday closing, have you, in the course of your visits to those large towns, inquired into the opinion of the people as to closing the public-houses on Sunday?—I have; I think there are hardly two opinions amongst them.

1912. Amongst whom?—All classes of whom I have inquired.

1913. Do you include publicans among all classes?—I do, in many cases. From the notes I have, I see that there are 20 publicans who have closed all the Sunday in Manchester; and in one case there is a petition sent in by publicans to have the houses closed on Sunday.

1914. Do you think, without going the length of your own views on the subject, that it would be practicable to pass and enforce a law which would close all public-houses on Sunday?—I think so.

1915. Do you think that closing the public-houses on Sunday would tend very greatly to diminish drunkenness?—Yes.

1916. Have you had any experience in the strictly agricultural districts?—Not much; I have visited the small towns on business. In the beerhouses in these places the drinking is very bad; on Sunday the people spend the whole of the afternoon in these places.

1917. Notwithstanding that, do you find that there is a general opinion in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday, although it is very much the habit of the people, when they have leisure, to frequent the public-houses and beerhouses on that day?—Yes; I had better mention, that working men, under the excitement of liquor, or when they are drinking liquor, are of a different opinion than when they are quite sober amongst their families. If you point out the wretchedness of their families, and the condition they are in, they generally confess that they would rather have the public-houses shut.

1918. Do you find in those large towns that the people have any other means of employing themselves on Sunday afternoons and evenings than in going to public-houses?—In most of the towns there are either public parks or nice walks, where they may enjoy themselves after the time of worship.

1919. You think that there exists already, generally speaking, sufficient means of recreation on the Sunday, if the public-houses were closed, to occupy the people?—I think so, to a large amount, because there are now parks and walks in or near many of our large towns.

1920. *Chairman.*] Have you inquired into the habits of the people who have changed from drunkards to sober and temperate people?—In every case in which I have visited the poor hovels, I have not met with a single total abstainer whose habits were not changed for the better.

1921. How do you find them employing the Sunday?—They very soon, instead of spending their wages, get clothes for their children, and they find that the children must go to school; and in many instances they go to a place of worship.

1922. Do you think that they have been persuaded upon religious grounds, or from a representation of the mischief of drinking, to abandon their habits?—I do not think that religious grounds lead them at first to abandon their habits.

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They principally get out of their bad habits, and that is the means of their receiving religious instruction afterwards.

1923. Sir *G. Grey.*] Have you been long conversant with the habits of the people through the country?—I have travelled through the country on my business very frequently.

1924. Can you inform the Committee whether, in your opinion, drunkenness is on the decrease generally?—I can hardly say; the more I look into it I think it is on the increase, though I wish I could say differently; I had no idea of the drinking at Manchester till I looked into it; and since I have done that I have looked at other towns, Bradford, Huddersfield, and some others.

1925. Have you made any comparison between the number of people who go into these public-houses now, and the number that frequented them 10 years ago?—No.

1926. *Chairman.*] Do you ascribe the increase of drunkenness to the fact of the men receiving more wages, or that the habit is generally on the increase?—There is rather more drinking when wages are higher, no doubt.

1927. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you say that there is more drunkenness in Manchester now than there was 10 years ago, allowing for the increase of population?—I can hardly give an opinion; generally speaking, I think there is as much drinking.

1928. Mr. *Brown.*] Are you of opinion, that the facility which every man in the United States has for distilling in his own kitchen has aided the assemblies in passing the Maine law?—No; I think not. The State of Maine, as a State, is very boggy, and principally occupied by persons hewing timber, who are a very low class of people. Drunkenness got to such a pitch, that Neal Dow, the then Mayor of Portland, made a resolution to try and sweep it away altogether, and so that has been followed through other States. I do not think it is from any facility for getting liquor in the way the Honourable Member has mentioned. I never heard of such facilities.

1929. Mr. *Packe.*] Supposing your views were carried into effect, and any one, by the advice of a medical man, required some intoxicating liquor, either wine, spirits, or beer, how would you recommend its being supplied?—In the State of Maine there is one place established in each town which is under the State, and the apothecary or agent where it is sold has no profit whatever from it; he has no interest in selling more than the party requires, and the party requiring it for medicine has to give or sign a certificate, so that it is sold in the same manner as arsenic is sold here. If a manufacturer requires spirituous liquors in the course of his trade, he enters into a bond that he will not sell or give away any for any purpose, but that he will only use it for his own manufacture.

1930. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is it not also the case in the States of America adopting the Maine law, that a man may send into an adjoining State, and buy beer or spirits for his own consumption?—It is so at present, in some of the States.

1931. *Chairman.*] Have you any accounts of any difference in the appearance or habits of the people since the law has been changed?—I was speaking to a gentleman who has just returned from America, and he states that he was walking down a town in the State of Maine, and he noticed a building boarded up which he was told was the prison.

1932. In what town was that?—The town of Portland. They had just passed a vote for 80,000 dollars to build new almshouses; and when this law passed, after it had been in operation six months, the report of the mayor was that there was sufficient room in the almshouses for the next 10 years, if the population increased as it had done; so that they will save 80,000 dollars; and they were about building a new gaol, but it is no longer required, for the present gaol is empty, or nearly so. The official report states, that on the 15th June 1852 the house of correction was empty. These are facts.

1933. Does the person to whom you are referring find it universally ascribed to the altered habits of the people since the Maine law has passed?—Quite so; I have a tract called "The Facts of the Case," in which that is mentioned.

1934. How is that authenticated?—By the Mayor of Portland, who is a gentleman of high standing.

1935. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Previously to the change of the law, did the State of Maine derive any revenue from the sale of intoxicating liquors?—I am not aware; but that information I will furnish with pleasure.

Mr. *N. Card.*

2 June 1854.

1936. *Chairman.*] You have not the particulars of any other State?—In all the States it is the same. The reason I mention the State of Maine is, because it was the first in which the liquor law was adopted; but the system is working equally well in the other States. There has been no riot whatever, nor any disturbance whatever, though it was passed at once.

1937. Has it been long enough in operation to account for the diminution of crime and pauperism to which you have referred?—Yes. I was recently in a gaol at Manchester in which there are now 500 and odd prisoners. We had a new gaol built for 550, and it is full, and we do not know what to do with the criminals. I went through the prison with Thomas Wright, the prison philanthropist; I spent an entire day in speaking to the prisoners, and in every case, without exception, drinking was the cause of the crime for which those prisoners were incarcerated.

1938. You mean that drinking had led to the commission of crime?—Yes, either directly or indirectly.

1939. Mr. *Packe.*] I presume your society does not intend to suppress the sale of intoxicating liquors by wholesale?—Yes, the entire sale.

1940. Mr. *Gregson.*] Does the law in Maine interfere with the sale in private houses?—The law takes cognizance of all traffic in liquor. Of course they do not interfere with the consumption in private dwellings.

1941. Mr. *Packe.*] Does it interfere with the sale by merchants?—Yes. You must bear in mind the great difference in there being universal suffrage in America.

1942. *Chairman.*] Are there any other parts of the world in which the same principle has been adopted?—Yes, in the British province of Prince Edward's Island, recently.

1943. Has it been adopted in Australia?—In Australia there has been formed the Victoria Anti-Liquor Law League, at Melbourne, and several gentlemen have joined it; they have subscribed to give 100*l.* a year each, until a similar law has passed. Sir William A'Beckett, the Chief Justice of Victoria, has joined our society, and he is very active in his endeavours to carry it out.

1944. For the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors at Melbourne?—Yes; it is a league formed for that purpose, for the colony of Victoria.

1945. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Has not an actual prohibition taken place in the mining districts?—I am not aware of what is doing now in that respect by the Government.

1946. Lord *D. Stuart.*] In the Appendix to the Evidence taken last year, there is this statement which bears your signature: "Amongst the miners in Australia the British Government has put an extreme Maine law into operation. Grogshops are ordered to be burnt to the ground as soon as they are discovered"?—Yes, that was the case then.

1947. *Chairman.*] Was that an order of the Government?—Yes, at that time. But I do not know whether it is so now.

1948. Have you communications with almost all our colonies?—We have with several, and are now about entering into more full communication with all the colonies; we are promoting arrangements to that effect.

1949. Are you making any calculations of what proportion of crime in this country can be traced to drunkenness?—The only way we can do that is by asking the prisoners themselves, or the judges who try them.

1950. Have you made a calculation of what the cost is to the country of prosecuting criminals and supporting paupers, and of what the saving would be if you could remove the crime and the pauperism; that would be easily obtained if you could ascertain the proportion occasioned through drunkenness?—I should say nine-tenths.

1951. Have you communicated with the stipendiary magistrates throughout the country, who have considered the subject?—We have, with several.

1952. Do you find them generally of opinion that crime is caused through drunkenness?—Yes; I never communicated with a magistrate who was not of that opinion. The opinion of the judges is, that they would not have one-tenth of the prisioners but for drunkenness.

1953. The judges have recently expressed the same opinion, and they have taken an opportunity of doing so upon the circuits?—They have almost unanimously.

1954. You think that you cannot trust to education, and to improving the

people

people in different ways, to remove those habits, but that you must actually get rid of the temptation to drink?—I have read a great deal upon the cause of drunkenness and the habit being formed, and if the Committee will allow me, I will give my experience. When a person is in the habit of taking drink, even in a small quantity, constantly, it is like constantly taking physic; it gets into the constitution, and from being overcome frequently by it, you have hardly the power to withstand the temptation of taking it again. It is almost like a paralysed man; you may tell him to move his hands, and it is just what he wants to do, but he cannot do it. So it is with a man frequently in the habit of drinking even a little more than moderately; he wishes to resist it, but cannot. We find it is so with the better classes in society; when they go to the dinner-table they feel a difficulty in resisting the temptation to drink. So it is, especially amongst the poor; that temptation must be taken away, and many of them are really praying that that temptation may be removed from them.

1955. Sir *G. Grey.*] You have no faith in moderation, and think that total abstinence is the only security?—Yes. I tried moderation for many years, but total abstinence is the best plan.

1956. Do not you think that there are a great number of people in this country who may drink beer and wine in moderation, and not be guilty of excess?—Some of us can bear medicines to a greater excess than some others.

1957. Mr. *Brown.*] Is it not the case that you very rarely see a gentleman drunk, and that they nearly all without exception drink wine?—Not very long ago I dined at the London Tavern, and I am sorry to say that I saw many gentlemen who I should have said had taken too much.

1958. *Chairman.*] I presume you are so much engaged in the great object of prohibiting the sale of liquors that you have not considered whether any amendments might be made in the law regulating public-houses?—I do think that the people are quite prepared for entire closing on the Sunday, and for even further restrictions as to hours and places.

1959. Have you considered the subject as to closing the public-houses earlier in the week days in the evening, or taking further security for the character of the publican?—I should like to see the houses not opened till later on Monday morning, and compelled to close earlier on Saturday evening.

1960. Is there much drinking on Monday morning?—There is a great deal of drinking on Monday morning; when men have been Sunday drinking they feel to want something on Monday morning.

1961. Sir *G. Grey.*] If the public-houses were closed on Sunday, do you think there would be a greater or less disposition on the part of the people in consequence of that closing, to go to those houses on Monday morning?—Less; because we find that if there is less drinking, there is less desire for it.

1962. *Chairman.*] You have no doubt, have you, that if the public-houses were closed entirely on Sunday, there would be many attempts to evade the law?—No doubt; the present law is evaded.

1963. Would it be necessary to have a system of inspection something different to what exists at present, so as to give the law a fair chance of preventing those evasions?—As I understand, in Scotland there has been formed a kind of moral police.

1964. They have not increased the ordinary police force?—No; they call them moral police.

1965. Sir *G. Grey.*] You mean a voluntary association for that purpose; I presume they have no legal power to interfere?—No.

1966. Are you aware that the police have power to enter any public-house or beerhouse at any time?—Yes.

1967. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do not you consider that your own association is a kind of moral police?—We do not regard it in that way. Our object is not to procure the enforcement of the present system, but to secure a better.

1968. *Chairman.*] Are you able to judge whether by the better conduct of those houses there would be a more efficient control over them?—I do not know that I am; I would wish to say that I have found in all my experience through life, especially for the last 20 years, since I have been observing these matters, that the less temptation there is to drink, the less drinking there is; if it is entirely done away with, the people would be quiet and well-behaved; but if you have a partial measure, I do not think it can be carried out satisfactorily.

Mr. N. Card. — — — 2 June 1854.

1969. Sir *G. Grey.*] What do you mean by a "partial measure"?—Allowing a person to get drunk on one liquor and prohibiting another; our society so far as prohibition goes, would prefer not prohibiting any if you do not prohibit all; if you go for Sunday closing, we go with you entirely hand and heart so far; but we look forward to entire suppression.

1970. *Chairman.*] You have no doubt that Sunday closing would be practical and useful?—I have no doubt of it.

1971. Mr. *Brown.*] What do you think the effect would be upon the habits of the people if you allowed them to have places of rational recreation, such as Botanical Gardens, Zoological Gardens, the Crystal Palace, or museums, and public libraries, or any places where they could not get drunk?—I was always of opinion that the more liberty we really leave with parties as to enjoying themselves on the Sunday without much restriction, the better; but I think it is not well to have a vast number of persons congregating together on Sunday at places of amusement; I do think if liquor is kept away from them they will find the means of getting books and educating their children, and they would be with their families, and take a walk in the afternoon. We find in the case of the teetotallers, immediately they change their habits they have no wish to go to those public places, more than taking a quiet walk.

1972. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is the new park at Manchester much frequented in the afternoons and evenings on Sundays in the summer time?—Yes.

1973. Do you think that the opportunity which has been afforded to the people to procure innocent recreation of that kind has had a good effect upon their habits?—Yes.

1974. Mr. *Packe.*] Your principle would go to the extent of putting down all liquors except such as the parties could brew at home?—Yes; we would put down the entire sale.

1975. If you were to prohibit the entire sale, nobody could have liquor but those who brewed themselves?—Yes; I do not think it would do to force the question; I think it must be at the call of the people.

1976. *Chairman.*] You would not prohibit the drinking of liquors at the people's houses?—We cannot prevent parties in their own houses doing as they please.

1977. Mr. *Gregson.*] I think you have said that you could not carry your recommendations into effect without the general consent of the people?—I do not think it would be operative.

1978. As we have not universal suffrage in England, how are we to obtain that?—It has been tried in one part of Scotland by the Duke of Argyll; he has entirely prohibited liquors from his estate.

1979. But drunkenness has increased in Scotland?—Not upon these estates; and Sir Walter Trevelyan has done the same. There are 36 parishes in Scotland where there are no public-houses, and the people are sober and industrious, and there is scarcely any pauperism.

1980. Mr. *Brown.*] Do not you think that drunkenness has increased in Scotland in consequence of the extreme feelings of the Scotch people in general, which prevent persons taking excursions with their families on Sunday; do not you think that that has driven people more to drink than if they had rational amusements at their command?—It may have done so, we find that drink creates an appetite for itself, it is not like food, so that where parties drink they must have it, there is an artificial craving for it, but they really wish the temptation to be removed.

1981. Mr. *Gregson.*] You do not propose to establish the same severe restrictions with reference to the observance of Sunday in England as in Scotland?—As to drinking I do.

1982. As to recreation?—No, I think we have a right to have individual liberty, I do think the people would conduct themselves properly, but for those houses of temptation.

375

Veneris, 9° die Junii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. C. P. Villiers.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Gregson.	Lord Dudley Stuart.
Sir George Grey.	Mr. Sotheron.

THE RIGHT HON. C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR

Mr. *William Howarth*, called in; and Examined.

1983. *Chairman.*] YOU reside in Manchester, I believe?—Yes.

1984. Have you been engaged in an inquiry as to the number of persons entering public-houses in Manchester on Sunday?—Yes. Mr. *W. Howarth.* 9 June 1854.

1985. Has that inquiry extended all over the town with respect to all the houses?—Yes.

1986. Have those calculations been made accurately?—Yes.

1987. Have you any document to which you can refer, showing the number of persons of both sexes who enter public-houses on Sunday in Manchester?—I have with me the book in which every name has been entered; the name of every public-house, the name of the sign, the name of the individual who keeps it, with a column for the number of men, another column for the number of women, and another column for the number of children; there is also a column for the name of the individual who has been the inspector during the day.

1988. Were those observations made on one Sunday?—No; they extended over six weeks.

1989. You have made your inquiries on each Sunday during those six weeks?—Yes.

1990. Do you find the same results for each Sunday as to the numbers?—No; only two houses were taken on the first Sunday; afterwards a whole street was taken; and then on one occasion we had above 100 houses taken; last Sunday there were nearly 300 taken; we found it impossible to take all the houses on one day.

1991. Have you kept an account of what was taken on each Sunday?—Yes.

1992. Will you state what the numbers were?—The number of the spirit vaults which have been inspected was 159; eight of them were closed the whole of the day. The number of public-houses which have been inspected was 256; four of them were closed the whole of the day.

1993. Are spirit vaults licensed places for the sale of spirits?—Yes, they are places where parties go in to get something to drink; they only stand; they are not places where they sit down; very many are attached to public-houses, but there are some which are not attached to public-houses.

1994. Are they regularly licensed?—Yes, they are regularly licensed by the magistrates, like other houses. The number of beerhouses inspected was 1,041; eight of those were closed the whole of the day; the total number inspected was 1,446. There are upwards of 200 more houses which we did not think it right to take; for this reason, some of them are eating-houses, and though they have a licence to sell beer, we thought parties might go in to get a little refreshment, and might not have anything to drink. Some are provision-shops, and have licences to sell not on the premises.

1995. Those houses which you have inspected are places to which people resort for the express purpose of drinking?—Yes.

1996. Can you state the proportion of males, females, and children?—Yes; the number of men was 119,533; the number of women was 70,478; the number of children and young persons, 22,232; total, 212,243.

Mr. *W. Howarth.*

9 June 1854.

1997. Is your inference from that statement, that that number of persons go to public-houses for the purpose of drinking on each Sunday?—Yes; but it ought to be stated in fairness that some of these people might make two or three visits; those are only visits, and some person might go in half a dozen times.

1998. Those are visits on the Sunday?—Yes.

1999. Do you believe that this takes place on each Sunday?—Yes, every Sunday.

2000. Is your statement for Manchester alone?—For Manchester alone, without Salford.

2001. Mr. *Sotheron.*] What is the population of Manchester?—The population of Manchester in 1851 was 306,213.

2002. Is that the population of the part of the town with reference to which you have taken these figures?—Yes.

2003. Am I to understand that if each of these visits represents one person, your inference is that two persons out of three in Manchester go to public-houses on the Sunday?—Yes.

2004. *Chairman.*] Did you make any other observations when you visited the public-houses?—We noticed that 60 policemen on duty entered those public-houses; some of them stayed for five minutes, and some half an hour.

2005. What is the total number of police in Manchester?—A little over 300. The first house that was taken was what was called a singing saloon; the magistrates had been applied to for several years to grant a licence, and had refused to do so; the man keeps a noted beerhouse, and we found that it was attended by 549 men, 151 women, and 420 mostly youths and young women.

2006. The singing goes on on the Sunday?—Yes, the singing goes on on the Sunday; but of course they profess to play sacred music.

2007. Did you go there yourself?—No. The name of the inspector is Daniel Hobson, a missionary employed by the Manchester and Salford Temperance Society.

2008. He did not state that there was any disorderly conduct?—No; he did not go inside; he only stood outside to take the numbers.

2009. I suppose nobody goes into that place without drinking?—No, they are all supposed to take something to drink.

2010. Do you know the terms of admission; whether, if you pay anything at the door, you are allowed to take it out in refreshment?—I believe they have a small charge, and they are expected to take it out in some kind of liquor. The highest number frequenting any house was 3,306; it is a spirit vault; the number of men visiting that house was 1,660, the number of women 1,596, and the number of children 50.

2011. Sir *G. Grey.*] When you speak of children, do you include children in the arms of their mothers?—No; children that go with a jug.

2012. Do you mean children who go into the public-house for the purpose of drinking?—Some do, and some go to fetch liquor out; the greater part of those people consisted of prostitutes and low company.

2013. *Chairman.*] At what hour was this?—From half-past 12 to 10 o'clock at night.

2014. Are not the houses in Manchester closed after three o'clock?—They open at half-past 12 and close at three, then they open again at half-past four.

2015. Is it after half-past four that those numbers have been seen?—They have been taken from half-past 12 to three, and from half-past four to 10.

2016. Sir *G. Grey.*] Was there any marked difference in the number of persons frequenting those houses between half-past 12 and three o'clock, and between half-past four and 10 o'clock?— The greatest proportion go from half-past four to 10 o'clock.

2017. *Chairman.*] Was any observation made by your inspector as to the character and appearance of the people who go in the earlier part of the day, and of those who go later in the day?—The most respectable parties who visit those places go to the regular licensed public-houses; the low company mostly resort to the beerhouses and to the spirit vaults.

2018. You said just now that the police were found in those houses; do you collect

collect that they were there for the purpose of drinking, or for the purpose of supervising the houses?—For the purpose of drinking.

2019. At what hour were they found in the public-houses?—Some in the afternoon, and some in the evening; they were noticed going in and out.

2020. Was there any riot or disturbance in the houses to which they went?—No, not at the time they entered; they went in to get something to drink.

2021. Was any policeman seen intoxicated?—No, I heard of nothing of that kind.

2022. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are the police at Manchester in the habit of going into the public-houses to see whether the law is being broken in any way; perhaps you do not know what instructions they have?—No, I do not know what instructions the authorities give to them.

2023. Lord *D. Stuart.*] You do not know whether they went into the public-houses in the discharge of their duty?—No, I should think not. I may state that at some of those places there were several fights and no policemen were to be found; several complaints of this kind have been made by our inspectors.

2024. *Chairman.*] You have not anything particular to state with respect to the character of the houses which were visited, as to whether there was any rioting or gaming going on?—There is gaming sometimes; I know merely what I have stated, that several fights have taken place at some of the houses.

2025. Did you see any people actually drunk in the public-houses which you visited?—Several drunken people were going in and out, but the inspectors were not instructed to go inside the houses; we wanted merely to take the number of those who entered.

2026. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Do you know whether the 60 policemen that you have mentioned were all upon duty, or whether some were not upon duty?—They were all upon duty; they are distinguished by a badge which they have on their arm.

2027. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are those public-houses and beerhouses distributed over the town pretty equally, or are there more in one part of the town than in another?—In some parts they are thronged three or four together; in some of the low neighbourhoods, such as Dean's Gate.

2028. *Chairman.*] Have you made any inquiry with reference to the number that enter the public-houses on the weekdays?—No.

2029. Have you any reason to think that more people enter the public-houses on Sunday than on the weekdays?—Yes, I believe they do; I have had several conversations with working men upon the subject; I have presided over 100 meetings in a year, and I have heard working men say that they can work very well without liquor upon a weekday, but that they cannot play very well without it on the Sunday, when the temptations are open to them.

2030. By "play" you mean rest on the Sunday?—Yes.

2031. You say you had frequent conversations with working men upon the subject?—Yes.

2032. What is your inference, that they would not be disposed to amuse themselves in any other way, supposing the public-houses were closed on the Sunday?—My opinion is, that if you were to canvass the working men of Manchester that a very large majority of them would be in favour of closing the public-houses on Sunday the whole day, and a majority for closing them altogether.

2033. How do you mean closing them altogether?—Weekdays and all.

2034. You state deliberately that you believe the majority of working men in Manchester would be in favour of the public-houses being closed on the Sunday?—I do.

2035. If the public-houses were closed for the rest of the day, after three o'clock, you believe there would be no resistance offered to it?—I do not believe there would; not general resistance.

2036. Do you know anything of the opinion of the publicans upon the subject?—I saw a petition a few weeks ago being got up by the publicans themselves, for the purpose of closing the public-houses on Sunday; it had then a dozen signatures to it; many of the publicans would be very glad if the houses were closed on Sunday; they want a day of rest themselves, as well as other individuals.

2037. Sir *G. Grey.*] You have said that some of the public-houses in Manchester were closed on Sunday; do you know what motives have induced the owners of those houses to close them on Sunday?—The motive which has actuated

Mr. *W. Howarth.*

9 June 1854.

some of the keepers of the spirit vaults which are closed, has been the observance of the Sabbath.

2038. You also said that some of the beerhouses were closed on Sunday; do you know what has induced the keepers of those houses to close them?—Eight of the beerhouses are closed on Sunday; I cannot say anything of the motives of those individuals; I know that is the case with the keepers of some of the spirit vaults.

2039. *Chairman.*] Is it your opinion that the spirit vaults are the worst description of public-house that there is?—Yes, and the beerhouses the next; but there are some low beerhouses quite as bad as the spirit vaults.

2040. Sir *G. Grey.*] You think the licensed public-houses are more respectably conducted than either what you call spirit vaults or beerhouses?—Yes.

2041. *Chairman.*] Do you know of anything which will account for that?—No, except the middle class visit them; I think that is the principal reason.

2042. Do you know at all to whom the spirit vaults belong?—Yes.

2043. Are they actually owned by respectable people in the town?—Some of them are owned by brewers, and some by distillers; some parties may have control over several houses.

2044. I suppose there are more spirits actually sold in those places than in the more respectable houses?—A great deal.

2045. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are there many cases of drunkenness in the streets in Manchester on Sunday?—A great many; but there are not very many brought up before the magistrates, in proportion to the number.

2046. Why is that?—It is thought that the policemen having to bring them up in their own time are not so energetic in that matter as they ought to be. It has been a complaint made by respectable parties that there are not more persons brought up for drunkenness than has been the case for the last few years.

2047. Are they cases of mere drunkenness in the streets, or of riot arising from drunkenness, from what you have seen?—Those cases which are brought up are mostly people making a noise and causing a riot.

2048. People who get drunk and make a riot are brought up by the police generally?—Yes.

2049. Mr. *Lowe.*] What do you mean by the police bringing them up "in their own time"?—They are not paid for bringing them up.

2050. *Chairman.*] They are required to bring them up in the morning, at a time when they would otherwise be resting?—Yes. Those cases are mostly gone into while the stipendiary magistrate is engaged in the court; they have a private room, and another magistrate sits on the cases of drunkenness.

2051. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are there many more cases of drunkenness brought up on Monday morning than on any other morning of the week?—Yes.

2052. *Chairman.*] Have you seen a return which has been made of the number of convictions for drunkenness and disorder in Manchester?—I have. I think the number is 787; and I know there was great dissatisfaction expressed in Manchester 12 months ago with the number of persons who were disorderly and intoxicated, who were taken before the magistrates, compared with Edinburgh and Glasgow. The inhabitants of Manchester stated that they thought there were very many more that ought to be taken up than really were.

2053. They did not think it was a really accurate return?—They did not think it was correct.

2054. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you mean that it was supposed that more people were drunk than those who were taken up, or that there were more people who ought to have been taken up?—They thought the return was incorrect.

2055. *Chairman.*] It was not a fair criterion?—No.

2056. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are you acquainted with Liverpool?—No, not much

2057. Have you been there on Sunday?—I have.

2058. Is there much difference between the appearance of the low streets in Liverpool and those in Manchester?—The Liverpool streets are worse than the Manchester streets, I should say.

2059. *Chairman.*] Arising from its being a seaport town, probably?—Yes.

2060. Sir *G. Grey.*] You say there are about 300 police in Manchester?—Rather more; about 320.

2061. Do you know how many are on duty at one time?—I cannot say.

2062. Would not 60 be a large proportion of those on duty at any one time?—

I suppose

I suppose some went off at four o'clock, and others came on at six o'clock; the whole 60 would not be the proper proportion.

2063. Did you ever see a policeman drunk in the streets on duty?—No.

2064. Mr. *Sotheron.*] How long have you resided in Manchester?—Thirteen years.

2065. Comparing the state of the population 13 years ago with the present time, do you think drunkenness is on the increase, or the contrary?—I think it is on the increase, notwithstanding that there are 30,000 teetotallers in Manchester.

2066. On what do you ground that opinion; is it on the appearance of the streets, or upon your having had better opportunities of making yourself acquainted with the circumstances than you had?—I have taken particular notice for several years; it is not only from my own observations, but those of others; and I think not only is drunkenness on the increase, but crime is on the increase also.

2067. Speaking of women, can you give any opinion or impression of your own with regard to the increase or decrease of drunkenness amongst them?—I think it is very much on the increase, especially in those low spirit vaults; the proportion is very nearly as great as the men: but in the respectable houses frequented by the middle classes, the number of women going there is very few.

2068. Sir *G. Grey.*] Have the spirit vaults and beerhouses increased much in number within your knowledge at Manchester?—Yes; the beerhouses especially.

2069. Since when?—Within the last 13 years.

2070. Has there been any increase within the last few years?—I have not observed the increase every year; we have not a directory published in Manchester every year; it is published only every three or four years.

2071. *Chairman.*] Have not the magistrates been strict as to not granting more licences?—For the public-houses; the inhabitants complained very much of the system in some districts of granting licences to beerhouses. I will mention a case in point: in a village in which I resided for 10 years we commenced a temperance society; we took a census of the inhabitants, and there were 1,206 inhabitants, and there were 404 teetotallers; but those who did not understand how the licences were granted thought when the licensing-day came round that we should have scarcely any; the parties had only to ask half-a-dozen individuals to sign the document, stating that they were proper persons to keep a beerhouse, and it was granted by the Excise; the magistrates had no control.

2072. Sir *G. Grey.*] You say that the spirit vaults are worse in your opinion than the licensed public-houses?—Yes; there are 159 spirit vaults in Manchester.

2073. Are not those licences granted by the magistrates, and revocable by the magistrates?—Yes.

2074. Mr. *Sotheron.*] What was the system which you expected to find when you were at the place of which you have been speaking; you say you were very much disappointed to find that when the licensing day came round those persons could easily get five or six inhabitants to sign, to enable them to get their licence; am I to understand you to say that you would expect a different state of things?—The inhabitants generally were disappointed; I was aware myself that the magistrates could not interfere with them or prevent their having a licence, but the majority, being working people, were not aware of that.

2075. What did they think?—They were very much disappointed, when many of the inhabitants wished to have no beerhouses, that new licences were granted.

2076. *Chairman.*] That is to say, the 400 teetotallers were disappointed?—No, not them alone.

2077. Mr. *Sotheron.*] They had no distinct idea of the regulations with regard to granting licences being different from what the law directed?—No.

2078. *Chairman.*] Have you any other observations which you wish to submit to the Committee upon this subject?—No.

2079. Have you any suggestion to make for the better regulation of these houses, from your experience, and after having considered the subject?—I should be very glad to see them closed the whole of the Sabbath-day. We had

Mr. *W. Howarth.*

9 June 1854.

a meeting for that purpose, presided over by one of our largest merchants. Some one dropped a hint that they ought to be closed altogether; the meeting took it up and cheered the speaker, thereby intimating that they should be very glad to see them closed altogether.

2080. Sir *G. Grey.*] Did the meeting adopt any resolution on that subject?—The meeting adopted a resolution, and a petition was got up, signed by the chairman, and it has been presented by Mr. Milner Gibson to The House, for the purpose of closing the public-houses on the Lord's Day.

2081. Was it put to the vote at that meeting?—Yes.

2082. Was there any division upon it?—No.

2083. Was it a large meeting?—It was held in the City Hall, and was crowded to excess.

2084. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Of whom was the meeting composed; was it a promiscuous gathering?—There were very many merchants and tradesmen on the platform, and a good sprinkling of ladies behind. The largest proportion were working people.

2085. Of those, were the majority teetotallers?—I should think not; it was a public meeting.

2086. *Chairman.*] Those who wish the houses to be closed on the Sunday are different from the teetotallers?—Yes.

2087. How do you and those people propose that the poor man is to get his beer on Sunday; they do not expect that the people will go without beer on Sunday?—There is no objection to a man getting a bottle at night, and providing himself with a quart of beer; it will keep till the next day.

2088. Do you know any working people who do that?—I do.

2089. Do you know that they have suffered no inconvenience?—Yes.

2090. Have you spoken to them on the subject?—Yes; in the village I have alluded to.

2091. With respect to Manchester, where you have resided so long, have you communicated with them upon this matter?—I have not asked them the question directly; I have reasoned with them, and said if they wanted to have beer with their dinner on Sunday, they could easily get a quantity at night if they thought proper; they thought it was a very good plan, and they said they had never thought of it before.

2092. Has there been any meeting against Sunday closing at Manchester?—None.

2093. Is it a matter of notoriety that there is a great movement for that purpose going on?—It is.

2094. Has there been any writing against closing the public-houses on Sunday?—I am not aware that there has.

2095. Has the press taken that line?—I have not noticed it.

2096. Mr. *Lowe.*] At what time do the public-houses open now on Sunday now in Manchester?—At half-past 12.

2097. What time do the working people dine?—About that hour.

2098. Have they time now to send for their beer?—Yes.

2099. It does not seem to give them much time?—No.

2100. How do they manage?—As soon as the public-houses are open, the men are ready with their jugs to get what quantity they want.

2101. Sir *G. Grey.*] How is it that the public-houses in Manchester are open at half-past 12; is not one o'clock the hour fixed by the law to which they shall be kept closed on Sunday morning?—I fancy the town council have something to do with them. I think that power is granted to them.

2102. Are you sure that it is the fact that the public-houses in Manchester are open at half-past 12 o'clock on Sunday?—Yes.

Mr. *Thomas Wright*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *T. Wright.*

2103. *Chairman.*] YOU reside entirely at Manchester, I believe?—Yes.

2104. You have made considerable inquiries, I believe, connected with the influence of drunkenness upon criminals?—Yes, I have, for these last 16 years.

2105. You have been in the habit of communicating with those persons?—Yes, visiting gaols; before I gave up my daily occupation I used to attend at night after I had done my daily work, and generally my Sabbath afternoons as well.

2106. What

2106. What has been the result of your communication with them, generally speaking?—Asking how they got to gaol, the majority of the adults have said to me it was drunkenness that was the cause of it.

2107. Have they stated particularly the time when they have contracted these habits of drunkenness; whether it has been on the weekdays or on Sundays?—On the Saturday night, and Sundays and Mondays; but Saturday nights and Sundays more than Mondays.

2108. Is that very generally the admission they have made to you?—Yes.

2109. Stating that it was the time at which they had most leisure, and when the temptation was the greatest to them?—Yes; because they have the means then from having their wages.

2110. Have you collected from those people that if they had not been exposed to that temptation they should not have drank on the Sunday?—Hundreds have told me that, both male and female.

2111. Did they know who you were?—Yes; I am well known in all the gaols, both in London and down in Lancashire.

2112. You think you have had their admissions fairly given, and that they did not expect to get any advantage?—I go in the capacity of a friend; they know I am no paid man; they know I go to speak to them for their good, and hundreds of them apply to me, both male and female, to get them employment when they leave the gaols.

2113. Have they stated anything about the beerhouses or particular kinds of public-houses where they have been drinking most?—Those low beerhouses, where there is a deal of gambling going on, have been the ruin of many of them.

2114. Do you state that there is gambling in those houses?—Yes; it is known to the police; but they are too sharp for them; they cannot catch them at it; very rarely.

2115. Are those people, generally speaking, spirit drinkers?—I may say the majority of them are beer drinkers, because in those beerhouses the majority of the lowest kind of society go into the beerhouses; they do not go so much into spirit vaults; they go more into beerhouses; they can sit there, and in the spirit vaults they can only take their glass, and go out again.

2116. Have you been able to classify the sort of characters which go to spirit vaults and beerhouses, with reference to age and sex?—Yes; I calculate that we have four classes now; in all our large towns there is a fourth class.

2117. Which do you call the first class?—Those who give themselves wholly and solely to drinking, who send their children out begging, and from begging to pilfering for them; those resort mostly to those low beerhouses.

2118. What are the others?—The second are those that go into spirit vaults. The public-houses are frequented by the third, which consists of the middle classes. I consider very few of them ever go into any public-house or spirit vaults at all on the Sabbath; they attend to the means of grace.

2119. What is the fourth class?—The fourth class is what I consider our high class, who never are seen at any of those houses.

2120. This is a classification of the persons who drink intoxicating liquors more or less?—Yes.

2121. Do you know at all of what number the lowest class consist in Manchester?—No; there is a high number of them in Manchester.

2122. Habitual drunkards?—Yes; I do know for a fact that they commence drinking when the children bring their wages in on a Saturday afternoon, and they drink till Saturday night, 10, or 11, or 12 o'clock. When the young people and children are just returning from the works, those very children that go to the works get in the habit of going out to musical rooms, and to dancing rooms, and then that is the first step to their ruin.

2123. The first step is the drunkenness of the parents; the children are neglected, and get into bad company?—Yes, they go from step to step.

2124. From your experience of the characters in the gaols, would you say that those are persons that furnish the greatest number of criminals?—Yes; at the very lowest number it will be 18 out of 20.

2125. Do you mean that those people begin by being offenders in extreme youth?—Yes; they begin by drinking, and it leads them on to idleness, and from idleness they begin to be dishonest.

2126. Are they criminals generally from their youth?—Yes, generally so.

Mr. *T. Wright.*

9 June 1854.

2127. You consider, generally speaking, that they are demoralized by the neglect and drunkenness of their parents?—Yes; I made inquiry at Portland amongst the convicts there, as I do at all convict establishments I visit. I do not think two out of twenty could say that they had a good mother; she was generally a woman who neglected them in childhood and youth, and so on.

2128. From drunkenness?—Yes; I have attended 27 men who were convicted of murder, and out of those 27 men the greatest part have told me so; there was only one out of the 27 that said that his mother was a good woman.

2129. Did they refer to their habits?—Yes.

2130. The parents having been drunken or disorderly people?—Yes.

2131. Have you ever inquired amongst children when you have seen them in gaols what their parents were, or the cause of their crime?—I do in all the gaols where I go; I take a great interest in the rising generation. I am wishful to see them taken care of, and I do inquire of as many as I can, and take those children and send them to different institutions to get them out of the way of temptation. I send them to Bristol, to Birmingham. Miss Carpenter is so kind as to take them for 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. A poor child, a girl, who had been in prison for picking pockets, I got a lady to take for 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

2132. What is the result of your inquiry among those children?—They all allude to their parents being neglectful.

2133. Do the parents encourage them to commit crimes and thefts?—Yes; I have met with children who have told me that their parents have encouraged them to go out to be dishonest.

2134. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do your inquiries lead you to connect the commission of crimes by children either to habits of drinking acquired by themselves or to the habit of drinking indulged in by their parents?—By their parents. Many of those children go to different places to get amusement; they have no comfort at home, and then they are led on to crime.

2135. *Chairman.*] I understand you to state, that in the admissions both from adult offenders and from the children, they trace their fall or their crime to the neglect of their parents?—Yes.

2136. To that neglect which has been occasioned very much by drunkenness?—Yes, both on the Saturday night and Sabbath day.

2137. Can you state that it is a very large proportion of juvenile offenders that are led into crime in that way?—I should say the majority.

2138. Does your experience lead you to believe that if children are once criminal they ever reform?—Yes, I have seen them; there are one or two in Manchester who are filling situations to my great comfort.

2139. Have they been children that have been taken away from their parents?—Yes.

2140. A child let loose from prison will return to bad habits, unless he is removed from his parents?—Yes, immediately; one of the lads I sent up to Bristol told me that his mother sent him out begging, and from begging to pilfering; she did not care where she got the money if she got it for drink; that child was seven times in gaol, and he was only 12 years of age when I sent him up to Bristol.

2141. Do you find that among parents, generally speaking, it is from drunkenness they neglect their children; are not there other causes as well?—No other cause but that.

2142. Have you known instances of parents encouraging their children to commit offences?—There is a race of women in the world who do not care where the money comes from so that they can get it for drink.

2143. When the parents are so demoralized you say it is from drunkenness?—Yes.

2144. Do you believe that the women are worse than the men in drinking when they are drunken?—Yes; because they will do anything to satisfy their vicious propensities.

2145. It is more difficult to reform a woman than a man when she has once contracted these habits; that is the result of your experience?—Yes.

2146. Is it the case that some of those drunkards encourage their children to be prostitutes?—I have known some instances.

2147. Numbers of children almost live in that way, do they not?—As early as 10 years of age; I have seen them in gaols, and conversed with them.

2148. Is that the case in all our large towns?—Yes; in all manufacturing towns,

towns, and even in the seaport towns I have visited, such as Glasgow and Liverpool, I found a great number in those two gaols of these little creatures, prostitutes.

2149. Those are children of drunken mothers who do not care how they get their money?—No, so that they can get some.

2150. Glasgow is one of the worst places you know for the habit of drunkenness?—I do not know that there is much difference between Liverpool and Glasgow.

2151. You know Liverpool well?—Yes, I attend the two gaols there frequently. I make a practice amongst the juveniles to speak to them, and to ask them separately about their parents, those that have parents, and the children always tell me about the drunkenness of their parents, especially their mothers.

2152. Do you get admissions from those people, or at least any opinion as to what should be done to prevent the drunkenness, with regard to closing the houses where they first contracted their habits of drunkenness?—When they begin to get into sober moments in the gaols they begin to feel the consequences, and they confess that if there was never any intoxicating liquor sold again it would be a good thing for them and for hundreds.

2153. You are not speaking of particular cases?—No, many.

2154. You do not speak to them as a total abstainer, and they do not say what it would be agreeable to you to hear?—No.

2155. Mr. *Lowe.*] I think you have been the means of obtaining employment for a great many when they come out of prison?—Yes.

2156. What have been their habits in the situations which you obtained for them; have they abstained from yielding to the temptation to drink afterwards, remembering what it has brought upon them, or have they recurred to their former habits of intoxication?—By part of them it has been given up.

2157. *Chairman.*] The adult criminals?—Yes.

2158. Sir *G. Grey.*] By a large proportion?—A large proportion. A returned convict came to Manchester and called upon me at the works. I got him employment, and he signed himself as a total abstainer, and that man goes about on the Sabbath-day with his tracts, and so on, his conduct has been so industrious; but he has two large food-shops now in Manchester, doing very well. He is a man who helps me much with returned convicts; he brings them to me; then I get them, if I can, employment; when I get them employment I help to support them.

2159. Do they become total abstainers, or do any of them, without being total abstainers, still live sober lives?—A moral life; a sober life.

2160. Notwithstanding the temptation still thrown in their way by the public-houses being open on Sundays?—Yes.

2161. *Chairman.*] Is it possible to get employment for a convict returned?—Yes; it is well known to my friends at Manchester that I have done so.

2162. Is not there an objection to it?—Sometimes there is an objection. They have discharged a quantity of boys from Parkhurst; one came to Manchester, and I have got him into a situation in a large engineer's shop; a person who served his time with me; he is there learning the engineer's business, at 5*s.* a week to commence with; he is a young man of 18, and he comes every Saturday night to me, and I make up the remainder which is needful to support him to make him comfortable.

2163. There is a difficulty, that people for the most part object to take convicts; then life becomes intolerable to the man himself, from his being known to his fellows as having been a convict?—One in London I have got a situation for; he was discharged from Woolwich; I got him a situation in a coachmaker's shop, and it is thought that a detective officer saw him going in, and he went and told his employer, and his employer on the Saturday night paid him his wages, and said he should have no further occasion for him; he asked if he had done anything wrong; no, he had done nothing amiss; had not he been industrious; yes, he had; the poor young man came to me on the Monday morning, nearly heart-broken; I said, "I will do what I can; you shall not want; look up to me as your father." I took the opportunity myself to go to Nash's school; I said to him, "Mounsey, I know an institution in London that I think I could get you in; you could locate yourself somewhere abroad, where you would not

Mr. *T. Wright.*

9 June 1854.

be known;" he accepted it, and at the present time he is in the institution giving great satisfaction.

2164. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Are you referring to the institution in South-street, Westminster?—Yes; I have sent six, and the whole six of those have turned out well.

2165. *Chairman.*] I presume these statements of yours do not apply to juvenile offenders; if they are reformed, can they get situations in the county where they have committed the offence?—Yes, some do, especially girls; I can get girls situations where I cannot get them for boys; we have a small refuge in Manchester, where I take these poor creatures; they are there for some time and there ladies go in and look at those young people, and take their choice; and I am happy to tell the Committee there is one that has very recently married, that was in the institution; she went out to service, and her conduct was so good that she got married, and she is doing very well.

2166. Have you ever communicated with the parents of those children whom you have known to be criminals owing to their neglect?—I very often go to their houses when the children tell me where they live, and I talk to them, and endeavour to point out to them the impropriety of neglecting their children.

2167. Do you state that many criminals are reformed as to their habits of drunkenness when they come out from the gaols?—There are such cases. I know some that now are living in a very respectable way both in Manchester and elsewhere. I have seen them on the Exchange in Manchester, in trade as masters themselves.

2168. What are they?—I found them in gaol as criminals; one certain person that has two cotton mills.

2169. Were they drunkards?—They were; it was drunkenness that took them in at first, and was the cause of it. I say drunkenness is the cause of all dishonesty, or nearly so.

2170. You go some times to the parents' houses when the children have told you they have been neglected?—Yes.

2171. Do you find the statements of those children correct?—In a general way I do. I may say in 19 cases out of 20.

2172. You find the parents are living a disorderly life?—Yes. I am astonished that our gaols and workhouses are not more crowded than they are, when I go into the habitations of these creatures and see the filth there is in the house.

2173. You find them drunk?—Yes, I do.

2174. Until you could cure those habits, or remove the temptation from them, you would have no hope of improving their habits?—No, especially on the Sabbath.

2175. Any provision for education would be of little use unless you could reform the people from those habits; you consider that all those habits are at the bottom of all crime and violence in the country?—Yes.

2176. You visit workhouses?—Yes.

2177. Do you make any inquiries of their inmates?—Yes.

2178. Do you get similar admissions from them?—Yes.

2179. Have you reason to believe them?—I have. I know numbers myself. I have seen them in Manchester working in different cotton mills; I knew they were drunkards; I have found them in two establishments, one in Manchester and one at Chorlton-upon-Medlock. We have a workhouse at Chorlton-upon-Medlock and we have another at Cheetham-hill Road; that belongs only to the parish of Manchester.

2180. Have you confirmed those statements made by the paupers, that the origin of their condition has been drunkenness?—Yes; from habits of drinking they have got so enfeebled that they have not been able to get their daily bread.

2181. You consider that this drinking is a vicious habit, and not brought on by necessity?—I do.

2182. Is it your opinion that drunkenness is on the increase in Manchester?—Yes, rapidly so in the lower classes.

2183. In your opinion, the habit of drinking is independent of their condition as working people, because if they get higher wages, they spend more wages in its indulgence?—It is the case; I know it to be the fact.

2184. They have been much better off these last few years, have they not?—They

They have been better off in one sense; they have got more money; but I think they are worse off than they were when wages were not so high, because they have more to spend in drink.

2185. That is to say, they do not spend their wages wisely?—Yes.

2186. Mr. *Lowe.*] How did you ascertain the increase which has taken place in drunkenness in Manchester?—By our goals.

2187. You judge by the increase of crime?—Yes.

2188. I want to know whether crime has increased in Manchester the last few years?—Yes, rapidly. We had no less in our two gaols last week than 1,082 prisoners. Such a thing I never knew before.

2189. Were many of them persons committed for drunkenness, or disorderly conduct arising from drunkenness?—Yes. I was in the New Bailey yard on Monday afternoon, and I saw 17 women brought down the yard; out of those 17, 16 were taken up for drunkenness and being disorderly on Saturday night and on Sunday night.

2190. *Chairman.*] Do you know what has been the average in the gaols for the last 10 years?—The new borough gaol was built to hold 370, in which they have at this present time 642; but at the city gaol they have taken so many cells of the old gaol, that the county magistrates could not find room for them in the city gaol; and the town council are at this time trying to make an arrangement, if they can, with the county magistrates of Lancashire to send their prisoners to Kirkdale gaol.

2191. Mr. *Sotheron.*] You say 1,082 prisoners is a very large number; what would be the average, taking five years?—I thought 500 a very high number.

2192. Sir *G. Grey.*] Does that criminal population include those who come from the borough of Salford?—I am speaking of Manchester.

2193. Are the 1,082 prisoners taken out of the population of Manchester, or Manchester and Salford together?—Manchester and Salford together.

2194. What is the population of Salford?—Ninety thousand.

2195. And 1,082 is the number of prisoners in those gaols out of a population of above 400,000?—Yes.

2196. *Chairman.*] Has the population increased very much in Manchester?—Yes.

2197. With every fresh increase of trade, is not there a fresh influx of people?—Trade is not very flourishing just now.

2198. It has been, I believe?—Yes.

2199. Do not there come more Irish upon those occasions?—Great numbers.

2200. Are the women whom you have seen drunk chiefly Irish?—A great number of them; a great number of the children which we have in our gaols are Irish.

2201. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Is not the increase of prisoners in the gaols accounted for by the alteration of the law with respect to the abolition of transportation?—No.

2202. *Chairman.*] Where do the prisoners go for their terms of penal servitude?—They are brought to London, to Portsmouth, and to Portland.

2203. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Do you think the increase of prisoners is commensurate with the increase of the population, or greater?—Greater.

2204. Lord *D. Stuart.*] You say that the change of the law, with reference to transportation, does not account for the increase; are not some of those persons in the gaols persons under sentence of transportation, or what would be equivalent to transportation?—No.

2205. Are they persons awaiting trial?—A number of them are awaiting trial; they have nowhere to send a number of the convicts in each gaol; they send as many as they can to Pentonville and Milbank; the women are sent to Brixton now.

2206. Are none of the prisoners in these two gaols in Manchester of which you have spoken persons under sentence of transportation, or equivalent thereto?—Very few of them.

2207. Do you know how many?—I do not; I do not think, taking both gaols together, we have above 40 who are under sentence of transportation; I think that is the highest number.

2208. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is it not the case that the great majority of those prisoners

Mr. *T. Wright.*

9 June 1854.

of which you spoke are under short sentences passed on summary conviction?—Yes; for two months, three months, and four months.

2209. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Do you connect the crimes for which they are suffering with drunkenness?—Yes; our magistrates will tell you the same; any magistrate in a city such as Manchester and Liverpool.

2210. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you know what is the highest number of prisoners last year in those two gaols?—I think within a few we had 700.

2211. Do you mean to say that there has been an increase of from 300 to 400 this year, as compared with last year?—Yes.

2212. How do you account for that rapid apparent increase in the habits of drunkenness of the people, and consequent crime?—I think it is owing to drunkenness; the rapid increase of drunkenness has brought them to it.

2213. To what do you attribute that rapid increase of drunkenness in Manchester?—To a thirst for drink.

2214. Has there been any cause in operation this last year which would account for that vast increase in drunkenness?—No.

2215. Has it been because the wages of the people were better?—No, not this last twelve months; they are rather upon the decrease than the increase.

2216. *Chairman.*] Has there not been an extraordinary demand for labour, and has not every man felt that he could get work again if he lost his employment through drinking?—Yes.

2217. Sir *G. Grey.*] Can you state the number of prisoners the year before last?—I cannot.

2218. Do you know whether the increase of last year, compared to the number of the preceding year, was in proportion to the increase of this year as compared with last year?—I think this year there has been a greater increase than last year.

2219. *Chairman.*] Is it at all connected with strikes?—No; we have had no strikes in Manchester the last twelve months.

2220. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you know whether the number of public-houses and beerhouses has increased during the last year?—The beerhouses have, as well as the spirit vaults and public-houses.

2221. Do you know what the increase of spirit vaults has been during the last year in Manchester?—I do not know.

2222. Has it been considerable?—There have been some; I cannot say what number.

2223. You do not know the increase in the number of beerhouses?—No.

2224. *Chairman.*] Do you know the proportion of Irish to English in the gaols?—I should almost say they are all Irish; when I open a cell door, I look at them and say, "You are Irish?" and they generally say, "Yes, I am."

2225. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Are you able to assign any particular cause for that remarkable increase in crime and drunkenness in Manchester in the course of the last twelvemonths?—I do know that I can.

2226. Has it formed the subject of consideration amongst the magistrates or the principal persons in Manchester?—No.

2227. Has it been brought under public notice?—I am not aware.

2228. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you think any change has taken place in the practice of the police with regard to apprehending persons charged with drunkenness?—No.

2229. From the returns which have been laid before the Committee, it appears that in Manchester, compared with other large towns, very few persons were taken up for drunkenness; you do not think that any change has taken place in that respect, or that the police are more vigilant and active?—I do not think they are so active as they ought to be; it is my opinion that if all the public-houses, spirit-vaults, and music-rooms were shut up every Saturday night at seven o'clock, and they were not opened till nine on Monday morning, our criminal population would decrease rapidly.

2230. Are spirits, or only beer, sold at the music rooms?—Spirits and all.

2231. Have they licences to sell spirits at the music rooms?—It is at the public-houses themselves where the music is. On Sunday I have heard the young people singing the "Doxology," "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and so on, and "Before Jehovah's Awful Throne." I have seen them sitting with beer before them on the Sunday, very likely a boy and a girl together, the

boy

boy with a pipe in his mouth and with his arm round the girl's waist or round her neck. I have seen that myself.

2232. Have the keepers of those houses licences as licensed victuallers, or only as keepers of beerhouses?—Beerhouses.

2233. Can they sell spirits?—Some of those public-houses in Manchester sell spirits.

2234. Have they public-house licences or beerhouse licences?—Public-house licences.

2235. They are subject therefore to the control of the magistrates, as to the renewal of the licence?—Yes.

2236. *Chairman.*] I think they have no licence for music and dancing in Manchester, as in London?—No; there is one large room called Carpenter's Hall. I went up there one Saturday night. I thought I would go and see the ages of these poor creatures. I went up, and I think there were about 200 on the floor dancing; they ranged from about 14 years to about 19 and 20, and they were allowed to be in that place till 11 o'clock at night; and what are they fit for on the Sabbath morning?

2237. This was on the Saturday night?—Yes.

2238. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is it worse on Saturday night than on any other night in the week?—Monday night is very bad indeed.

2239. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know whether they drink much, or whether they go chiefly for the sake of the music and dancing?—They go more for the sake of the music and dancing than drinking.

2240. Sir *G. Grey.*] When you went on the Saturday night to the place which you have described, did you see any of the persons drunk?—No, they were not drunk; they are not allowed to sell anything there but ginger-beer,

2241. *Chairman.*] Do you suppose that these young people who were there, of 14 years of age, had homes and parents to go to?—I dare venture to say that not two out of 20 had comfortable homes.

2242. Do they work at the mills?—Yes.

2243. Do young people at that age set up for themselves, and live in lodgings?—Some do and some do not.

2244. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Supposing the public-houses and places of public entertainment were shut up, and that those poor people had no tolerable homes to go to, what do you think they would do with themselves?—I think in time they would attend the Sabbath schools and the house of God.

2245. Have you any experience that should lead you to that conclusion?—I do not know that I have, but that is my firm belief.

2246. Sir *G. Grey.*] As there is a considerable portion of Sunday which would not be occupied in attending school or a place of public worship, how would they occupy the remaining portion of the day?—Nearly all the places of worship in Manchester are open in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

2247. Mr. *Sotheron.*] At those periods, for there must be such, when they would neither be in the house of God nor in the schools, in what way do you think they could dispose of themselves?—I think they would keep at home, and I do say that they would begin to be thinking creatures, thinking for themselves.

2248. I am speaking of those whose homes you describe to be very bad; in what way, as matters now stand, could they dispose of themselves on the Sunday?—I think they would attempt to go to the schools.

2249. Must not any great moral improvement which you think you would gain by shutting up the public-houses on Sunday, necessarily be accompanied with the improvement of their own homes, in order to produce any real beneficial change?—I do not think in what I call the old stock, the parents, there would be any alteration in them now to any amount; but with respect to the rising generation, in which I take a great interest, I do say that it would have the tendency of training the children, and that they would see the necessity of leading better lives than their parents.

2250. I think you said that your parks at Manchester are very much frequented?—Yes.

2251. Do not they afford places of rational recreation during the summer months?—Yes, they do. I do not agree with those places being open on the Sunday; I think it leads to something worse. I have seen the people come out

Mr. *T. Wright.*

9 June 1854.

of those parks, especially the Peel Park, and as they have come out, a man and his wife and a child or two with them, they have branched off first into one public-house, then into another, and then into the spirit vaults probably; and if they had not places like those open on the Sunday, they would be found in the house of God.

2252. As I understand that you propose that places for the sale of beer or spirits should be shut up, in what manner would you provide, or wish provision to be made, for their passing their time?—I would have institutions where they would get both spiritual and moral instruction, and I have no doubt that a number of individuals would embrace the opportunity; they would be very glad of it, and would resort there, though they had no comfort at home, for instruction.

2253. Does it enter into your contemplation, with the view of obtaining a considerable improvement in the habits of the people, that there shall be some attention paid to the improvement of their dwellings?—If it could be done it would be a most excellent thing.

2254. Does it enter into your plan?—Yes.

2255. You would think that your scheme for moral improvement could not be carried on without some such provision?—No.

2256. Should you propose to have any parks or places of public resort open to them on Sunday, in place of the public-houses and beershops?—None, because the hours are not so late in Manchester; they work till half-past five or twenty minutes to six, therefore they leave work in sufficient time, in days like these, to go into the parks and get recreation and fresh air.

2257. Sir *G. Grey.*] Would you propose to shut the parks up on Sunday?—I would if I had the power; they have the tendency of demoralising the rising generation.

2258. Do you think there is any tendency to their being demoralised while they are in the park if they have no means of getting intoxicating liquors?—Yes.

2259. Are the people orderly and well-behaved in the parks in Manchester?—Yes; it is when they come out that the mischief is done. Suppose a working man's sons or daughters go there who have been brought up by moral or perhaps pious parents, they may meet with young people who would encourage them to go into a public-house, a spirit vault, or a music-room, into which otherwise they would never have gone.

2260. You think the only security against their drinking is that they should remain at home all the Sunday, except when they go to school or public worship?—Yes. I may mention that there are very few Scotch people in our gaols; I go into a great number of gaols, and I do not find one Scotchman's child in 100, nor male or female adults.

2261. Are you aware that Glasgow is said to be one of the most drunken places in the kingdom?—Yes; but if you go into Glasgow you will find that the drunkards are not Scotch, they are Irish.

2262. Mr. *Lowe.*] I understand your objection to parks and other public places to be, that the people are tempted to drink when they come out of them?—Yes.

2263. If those places were shut up on Sunday your objection would cease?—Yes; they would go home.

2264. Lord *D. Stuart.*] You would have no objection to the parks being open if the public-houses were shut?—No; I would have no temptation placed in the way of the rising generation.

2265. *Chairman.*] Are you acquainted with the habits of people who are not drunken, or who have been reformed?—Yes.

2266. Do not they resort to parks and other places innocently?—They do not; those that are sober (I do not mean to say all, but I should say the majority of them), attend to their places of worship, whether church or dissent.

2267. Mr. *Sotheron.*] If you had it your own way, would you propose that a person having been to church or chapel, as the case may be, or having been to school, should not take any sort of recreation on the Sunday evening; by "recreation" I mean an innocent walk in the public park, or some place where there is no temptation to drink?—They have sufficient time upon their hands upon

upon the weekdays, without breaking the law of God; we are commanded to keep the Sabbath-day holy, and we cannot keep it holy by going to those places.

2268. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is it the habit of the people of Manchester to leave the city and go to a distance by the railways on Sunday?—A great number do go, particularly in the summer time.

2269. In what condition do they return to Manchester?—They are more tired than when they left their employment on Saturday.

2270. Do they come back sober or drunk?—A great number drunk.

2271. To what places do they go; do they go chiefly to the country, or to other towns?—To the country places and the towns as well; numbers go to Bolton, Stockport, and all round about.

2272. Are you conversant with the habits of the population of Bolton and Stockport?—Yes.

2273. Is there as much drinking in those towns on Sunday as in Manchester?—Yes.

2274. Therefore, if the Manchester people go to Bolton and Stockport on Sunday they have the same opportunities for drinking as they would have in Manchester?—Yes.

2275. *Chairman.*] You are of opinion that if there were not these temptations in their way they might do all these things which they do at present with much less mischief?—Yes.

2276. They might go upon the railway, and go into the park, and be the better for it?—I would rather they went to the park than to the public-houses or spirit vaults. I know something about the recreation of the working classes, for I have been a working man myself.

2277. You know something of the opinions and feelings of the working classes upon the matter?—I do.

2278. Can you tell the Committee that they do not attach any importance to recreation on Sunday?—They do not; I have the management of a large concern in Manchester, and I can tell when some of the men or lads had been out on the Sabbath day; they appear so loath to begin work, and I cannot get them on with their work.

2279. You are talking of the present system; they might have been drunk on the Sunday?—Yes; it was drunkenness that caused their indisposition to work.

2280. How do you account for the parks being so full; for instance, the park at Manchester is filled on the Sunday?—Yes.

2281. They are not all people who are addicted to drinking?—No; but numbers of them are; and if they were not open they could not lead those who have no inclination to go into temptation.

2282. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are many of the persons who frequent the parks in Manchester of the first class which you described?—They are what I consider the third class; the working class.

2283. That is the class which you formerly described as comprising persons who frequented public-houses, as distinct from beerhouses?—Yes.

2284. Do not those persons return in a quiet, sober, and orderly manner from the parks to their own houses?—I believe those are the parties who branch off to the different public-houses or music rooms till 10 or half past 10 o'clock.

2285. At what time do they come out of the park?—At nine o'clock in summer time.

2286. Mr. *Sotheron.*] If they did not go to the park they would be somewhere out of the park; would not they be equally tempted to go to the public-houses?—I think not; I think those that had good moral feelings would not be tempted.

2287. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do the people who are in the habit of frequenting churches and chapels in Manchester in the evening ever branch off to the public-houses or beershops as they come home?—No, I do not think they do; I think when the heart is set right there is no temptation.

2288. Is there any considerable portion of the population of Manchester of the first or second class of which you have spoken who do not frequent public-houses or beershops on Sunday evening?—Yes.

Mr. *T. Wright.*

9 June 1854.

2289. You think they are persons who abstain from drinking on Sunday?—They may have it at home; they do not go to any of the places we have been naming.

2290. You think that shutting up the public-houses on the Sunday would remove a great amount of temptation from the people generally?—I do.

2291. *Chairman.*] Do you know the number of Irish in Manchester?—I do not.

2292. Is it the case that there are above 80,000 Irish domiciled in Manchester?—I should say they are high in number.

2293. Would not they consider it rather a restraint upon their usual habits if the public-houses were closed on the Sunday?—I should not mind what their feelings were if it was for their good.

2294. Would you expect resistance to come from that quarter if from any?—No, I do not think it would.

2295. Do you know anything of the operation of the new Act in Scotland?—I do not.

2296. Mr. *Gregson.*] During what hours is the park in Manchester open on the Sunday?—From sunrise to sunset.

2297. Is there ever any disorder in the park?—I cannot say; I was never in it but once.

Mr. *John Cunliffe*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Cunliffe.*

2298. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you live?—At Bolton, in Lancashire.

2299. Have you an extensive acquaintance with the working classes?—Yes, I have.

2300. And have had for many years?—For more than 20 years I have been actively engaged in a variety of movements for their good, either in promoting temperance, or in penny banks, and other matters having a provident and elevating tendency.

2301. You have had therefore a great opportunity of judging of their habits, and the temptations and obstacles to their improvement?—I have.

2302. Will you state to the Committee what you consider to present the greatest difficulty now to their improvement?—The greatest difficulty in the way of the improvement of working people I consider to be the use of intoxicating drinks.

2303. You have been engaged in some movement, have you not, connected with this subject?—For several years I have been engaged as the secretary of an association called "The British Association for the promotion of Temperance." I have been engaged for several years with others in trying to obtain an Act of Parliament to extend the half day to the whole of Sunday.

2304. Did your labours begin before the public-houses were closed half the day on Sunday?—Just immediately after.

2305. Were not you engaged in getting up petitions in favour of closing the public-houses from Saturday night to half of Sunday?—I was.

2306. Were the publicans and others much alarmed at that movement?—There was comparatively very little opposition to that Act.

2307. Did the working people object to it?—Very little indeed.

2308. Do you know anything of its working?—Yes.

2309. What have been the general results of that Act, so far as you can trace them immediately?—Its results have been very highly favourable to morals and good order, especially with respect to the working classes.

2310. Do you know anything of the state of the people before that Act passed?—I can hand in a document of great value bearing upon that point. It is a document which deserves to be better known than it has been. It details the effect of the Act which closed the public-houses half the Sunday for the first six months after it came into operation.

2311. Sir *G. Grey.*] Does the statement refer to the whole of the country, or does it refer only to some particular place?—It refers to Lancashire.

2312. *Chairman.*] How do you estimate the results of the Act before and after?—The decrease of apprehensions for drunkenness is about 30 per cent.

2313. Do you refer to an official document when you make that statement?—Yes.

2314. That

2314. That document refers to some official papers with respect to the amount of crime before the Act passed and since?—Yes, these are the results of the examinations of the heads of the police in the various districts of Lancashire.

2315. Were those apprehensions for disorder and drunkenness?—Yes. The return refers to drunkenness only on Sunday.

2316. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is this document a return furnished by the Lancashire constabulary, "showing the number of persons apprehended and summoned for drunkenness on Sunday in the several divisions of the county, for six months prior to the passing of the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 49, and also for six months subsequent thereto, and the effects thereby produced, according to reports from superintendents of divisions"?—Yes.

2317. What is the general result?—About 30 per cent. decrease. (*The same was delivered in.*) *Vide* Appendix.

2318. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to infer that those offences took place on Saturday night and Sunday morning?—On Sundays.

2319. Was that entirely owing to the houses being open?—Entirely.

2320. You presume therefore that after the houses were closed they did not get drunk equally?—Not to that extent. At least 30 per cent. decrease is indicated by the breaches and violations of the peace.

2321. You mean that the closing of the public-houses was effective to a very great extent, by withdrawing the temptation?—Specially by withdrawing the temptation.

2322. The temptation consisting in a man's not being at work, and having his wages to spend?—The temptation being that the men have time on their hands, and not having higher tastes, the public-houses and beerhouses become an easy way of spending their time.

2323. Sir *G. Grey.*] It appears that this Return was made to the quarter sessions held at Salford on the 9th day of April 1849; have you any more recent information. It has been alleged to-day that drunkenness has very greatly increased in Manchester?—It is difficult to decide as to that; I think that drunkenness has increased during the last three or four years, owing to the increased means of the working classes.

2324. Have you any similar return to this, which was made by the constabulary, of a later date than April 1849, showing the operation of the existing law?—I have a number of documents of a more recent date, namely, January 1853 (*handing in the same*).

2325. You have sent out questions to different places, for the purpose of ascertaining these facts?—Yes.

2326. Sir *G. Grey.*] To whom were the questions addressed?—To the heads of the police department of the chief cities and boroughs in the country.

2327. Did those questions which were addressed to the superintendents of police directly tend to the point to which you have been adverting, namely, the operation of the Act of 1848 upon the habits of the people?—Yes; those questions were addressed to the superintendents of police; the first question is, "What have been the effects of the Act of 1848 on the good order and morals of your town on the Sunday?" The result of that inquiry is, that of 54 returns which I hold in my hand, 50 speak highly favourably, and four are uncertain or doubtful.

2328. Do those returns apply exclusively to Lancashire, or to other parts of the country?—They cover the entire surface of the country.

2329. When were those answers given?—Last year. The second question is, "Has it had any effect in lessening the duties of the men under your superintendence on the Sunday morning?" In reply to which, 44 say, "Yes," and 10 say, "No," or doubtful. The third question is, "Has it tended to lessen the number of committals for drunkenness and breaches of the peace arising from Sunday drinking; and if so, to what extent?" To this 42 say, "Yes," and 12 are doubtful, or say, "No." But the answers are in various terms; some say one-third, and some say one-half.

2330. The decrease has been to that extent?—Yes; the fourth question has not much point, for it did not seem to meet with a ready answer: "Do your police reports furnish any statistics showing the beneficial operations of the Act of 1848?" It appears that not many cities or towns have the machinery for giving correct information upon that point; hence they answered it doubtfully,

Mr. *J. Cunliffe.*

9 June 1854.

or said that they had no information. The fifth question is, "Does Sunday drinking, in your opinion, frequently tend to idleness and tippling on the Monday?"—50 say "Yes," and four are doubtful, or say "No." The sixth question is, "What, in your opinion, would be the effect of closing all houses for the sale of intoxicating liquors the entire of Sunday, upon the morals, industry, and comfort of the working classes"?—45 speak decidedly favourably, and nine are doubtful, or cannot say.

2331. Were those answers from country districts as well as from towns?—They are from the largest cities and boroughs.

2332. Have you a return from Manchester?—No; they have a separate Act at Manchester.

2333. Have you for Bolton?—Yes. In answer to the first question, the superintendent of police at Bolton says, "The effects of the Act of 1848 on the good order and morals of this town have been visible throughout the entire of Sunday."

2334. You know Bolton yourself well?—Very well.

2335. Do you find that the effect of the Act has not been merely to check drunkenness in the early part of the Sunday, but to improve the habits of the people throughout the entire day?—Most decidedly; and the reason is plain.

2336. What is the reason?—The reason is, that many by not commencing drinking in the morning keep sober the entire day; they are kept from temptation and bad companions in the morning, and then they manage the rest of the day. His answers to the other questions are as follow: "2. Has it had any effect in lessening the duties of the men under your superintendence on the Sunday morning?—Undoubtedly considerably fewer persons have had to be apprehended for drunkenness on Sunday mornings since the passing of the Act than previously. 3. Has it tended to lessen the number of committals for drunkenness and breaches of the peace arising from Sunday drinking; and if so, to what extent?—As a consequent result, the committals have considerably decreased, inasmuch as the apprehensions have been fewer for those classes of offences. 4. Do your police reports furnish any statistics showing the beneficial operations of the Act of 1848?—Most certainly; I have had the pleasure of calling the attention of the magistrates and the watch committee to its beneficial operation for some years past in my published statistical returns of crime, &c. 5. Does Sunday drinking, in your opinion, frequently tend to idleness and tippling on the Monday?—I am not prepared to say that it does so generally; but in this town there is a class of habitual drunken idle fellows who, if they have the means, will drink the whole week without cessation. 6. What, in your opinion, would be the effect of closing all houses for the sale of intoxcating liquors the entire of Sunday upon the morals, industry, and comfort of the working classes?—My opinion certainly is, that a law, compelling public-houses and beerhouses to close the entire of Sunday, would have a most beneficial effect on the morals and industry of the working classes; but whether such a law could be safely extended to licensed victuallers' houses is a question of some difficulty, inasmuch as a great many people of the neighbouring towns and country places are in the habit of visiting Bolton on the Sundays, and it would become a matter of much inconvenience and annoyance if such persons were debarred from entering public-houses for refreshment, &c. Indeed I find many parties of this description put to great inconvenience during the temporary closing of public-houses at the present time; and if the police would interfere and order publicans to permit those people to enter, there would be an end to all regularity, as the public-houses would become as crowded as ever."

2327. Mr. *Gregson.*] From whom is that report?—From the superintendent of police. I have similar reports from Devonport, Dorchester, Exeter, Dartford, Halifax, Ipswich, and other places.

2338. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you think that the papers which you hold in your hand, and the answer, written upon them give a fair impression of the opinion of the people throughout the country upon these points?—They give a very fair reflex of the opinion of the country, with reference to the Act in question.

2339. Are you acquainted with Manchester?—I am.

2340. How do you account for the fact of the great increase of Sunday drinking in Manchester, which appears to have taken place lately?—I am not acquainted

acquainted with the habits of the people of Manchester on Sunday, I have an opinion about Manchester drunkenness, and not a week ago I observed a fact which confirmed my suspicions.

2341. What are your suspicions?—My suspicions are that, the police of Manchester are somewhat lax in the apprehension of drunkards.

2342. If they were more active and vigilant, you think there would be less drinking?—If they were more active and vigilant, the apprehensions would greatly increase.

2343. Do you think that that would check the amount of drunkenness?—I am not sure of that, it would exhibit upon the surface a much larger amount of drunkenness againt Manchester than the present figures show.

2344. Since it appears from those papers which you have laid before the Committee, that the general effect of the Act of 1848 has been to diminish Sunday drinking, are you aware of any causes which can account for the increase of drinking in a place like Manchester?—I am not aware of any causes, neither can I conceive from what reasons any one can come to such a conclusion.

2345. Were you aware of that fact yourself, before you heard it stated in evidence by Mr. Wright?—I was not, I am not aware of the existence of any facts or figures to demonstrate it, it may be only an impression.

2346. *Chairman.*] You are disposed to think, are you not, that if the people have increased means they will spend them in drink?—Decidedly.

2347. I presume the condition of Lancashire, generally speaking has been very good the last two or three years, do you believe that the people still spend their wages in drink, in proportion to the amount they earn?—They spend their money largely in drink.

2348. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you think that there is more drunkenness in proportion as the people are well employed, and have better wages?—There is more drunkenness, and always will be while they have the same temptations and facilities for procuring drink.

2349. *Chairman.*] While the present temptations exist you think they will yield to them if they have formed no previous habits when trade is slack; when their wages increase they are more intemperate?—Yes; wrong-doing is made too easy.

2350. Have you considered particularly what would be the effect of shutting the public-houses the whole day on Sunday?—Yes.

2351. What has been the result of your inquiries lately upon that subject with respect to the opinion of persons generally as to the facility or practicability of closing the public-houses on Sunday?—In the first place, I have had two or three years' experience in trying to procure such an Act, and we have held public meetings in Bolton upon the question. Very large meetings were held during the last summer. The first meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, which is our largest public building, and the mayor presided. It had been publicly announced, and there was a counter placard posted up, calling upon the working men to come and protect their liberties; and although they were appealed to by a counter placard, the motion was carried by a very large majority.

2352. There was a counter resolution?—Yes, and long speeches.

2353. Who moved the resolution?—They were working men. I should not like to speak of motives here; but I have my opinion as to the motives. I know the men living in Bolton, and can easily account for their appearing at the meeting.

2354. Can you give an idea of what their objection was to closing the public-houses on Sunday?—The burden of the speeches was, "Do not interfere with the liberty of the working classes," in vague general terms.

2355. Did any working men oppose them?—Several.

2356. Several working men made speeches in favour of closing on Sunday?—Yes, against the other speeches.

2357. Alleging that it did not interfere with their liberty?—Yes, and answering their various objections.

2358. Were there any publicans at the meeting?—Many.

2359. Did they take any part in the discussion?—Not at all.

2360. Do you know whether the publicans are favourable to closing on Sun-

Mr. *J. Cunliffe.*

9 June 1854.

day, or are divided in opinion upon the subject?—They are divided in opinion upon the subject.

2361. Do you think that the great majority oppose it?—I cannot suppose they do. I have one interesting fact here, which I should like to bring before the Committee; it may be taken as a sample. This is a statement of the Rev. J. Simon, who, with two other ministers of the Gospel resident at Blyth, in the county of Northumberland, visited all the public-house and beerhouse keepers, with a view to induce them to close their houses on the Sunday. In Blyth there are 35 public-houses and beerhouses; at present three close of their own accord; 27 are willing to close if all the others would do the same, and five are unwilling and obstinate, and that makes up the 35. The result was, that owing to the obstinacy of the five, the 32 houses remain open as before.

2362. Those 30 public-house and beerhouse keepers would be glad if a law were passed which compelled all to close?—Yes.

2363. Sir *G. Grey.*] You have been engaged, you say, in getting up petitions in favour of Sunday closing: have you found publicans and beerhouse keepers, in any large numbers, sign those petitions?—I have never had any means of testing the opinions of publicans beyond my own town.

2364. Within your knowledge, have publicans signed any of those petitions?—Within my knowledge, and from information derived from a large correspondence, they have frequently signed those petitions.

2365. *Chairman.*] Do you find that the working people sign the petitions?—Yes, very freely.

2366. Are you of the same opinion as other witnesses, that the great body of the working classes would be glad to find the temptation removed from them?—Yes, except a very few of the reckless and abandoned; those whose good moral motives are entirely gone.

2367. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you know any place in which by general agreement the public-houses and beerhouses have been closed on Sunday?—I am not aware of any.

2368. Do you know Ipswich?—No.

2369. *Chairman.*] Do you know any public-houses which are closed on Sunday?—I am only aware of one in Bolton.

2370. What would the people do for beer if the public-houses were closed on Sunday?—They would not care much about it.

2371. Sir *G. Grey.*] Would they be deprived of it, or could they get it on Saturday night?—The greater bulk would not care to have it.

2372. You mean that they would take their dinners without beer on Sunday?—Beer is very little used in Bolton with dinner on Sunday.

2373. Do you mean that all the beer consumed in Bolton by working people is consumed in beerhouses, and not in their own houses?—Yes, in the way of tippling, and not as refreshment.

2374. *Chairman.*] You admit that beer is consumed to a very great extent in the way of tippling on Sunday?—Yes.

2375. Do you say that it would be a matter of indifference to those who tipple if the supply of beer was suddenly stopped?—No; it would be a matter of indifference to a very large majority of those who drink now.

2376. Upon what grounds do you make that statement to the Committee?—From an intimate acquaintance with the working classes. For example, two persons came to sign the temperance pledge this week, and they are a fair sample of hundreds besides, and they said, "Sunday is our great difficulty; we cannot get over Sunday."

2377. Those are a few people who have come to you, and have taken the pledge?—Hundreds.

2378. You have said that you have attended many public meetings in different parts of the country?—Only in Bolton.

2379. Are they always working men who oppose the closing of public-houses on Sunday?—There is now little opposition upon this subject.

2380. You mean that they oppose it less now than they did?—A great deal.

2381. Have you had any meetings this summer?—We had several last summer, but we have had none this summer; there have been a number of petitions got up, and the matter has been notified, but they have ceased opposition.

2382. Has

2382. Has there been any diminution in drunkenness in Bolton, or in drinking generally?—No; I am not aware that there has.

2383. You think there has been some change in the opinion of the working people?—Yes; the effect of last summer's agitation has been beneficial.

2384. Have you made any progress at all in Bolton of late years; have there been any literary institutions established, or mechanics' institutes?—We have had a mechanics' institute for several years; but in October last we opened a free public library.

2385. Is that open on Sunday?—No.

2386. Are you one of those who think that it ought to be closed on Sunday if you close the public-houses?—My opinion upon the opening or closing of such places is altogether apart from any opinion which I have with regard to the public-houses generally. I have no great scruples about parks and public libraries being open on Sunday.

2387. Would not such places be an attraction to the people if they were shut out of the public-houses?—I think they would afford a mode of spending the Sunday far superior to going to the public-house.

2388. Is the working class generally illiterate and uneducated in Bolton?—I think they are quite up to the average. There is a great deal of reading in Bolton.

2389. What description of reading?—Newspapers and periodicals.

2390. Do the people find the newspapers and periodicals in the public-houses?—They purchase cheap periodicals. They find their daily papers in some of the public-houses; but they read, very largely, cheap penny publications.

2391. Those they buy themselves, and take home?—Those they buy themselves, and take home; and since the free library has been opened, they have resorted to that.

2392. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is that a library to which the people in Bolton have access without paying anything at all?—Yes.

2393. Can any resident in Bolton have access to the free library?—Yes.

2394. Is the free library very much frequented?—Yes.

2395. At what hours in the evening is it open?—It is open in the morning for two or three hours, and from six to eight in the evening.

2396. Lord *D. Stuart.*] How is it maintained?—It was commenced first by a rate, in accordance with an Act of Parliament, with which the Committee is familiar, and then by voluntary subscriptions, amounting to several thousands, on the part of the wealthy inhabitants.

2397. Mr. *Gregson.*] You do not object to this library being open on Sunday?—I have no scruples about it myself.

2398. Have you any public parks in Bolton?—We have one just in preparation, the gift of the Earl of Bradford.

2399. Sir *G. Grey.*] Do you think that the opening of the free library at Bolton has had a good effect upon the habits of the people, and that it has tended to any extent to diminish their frequenting the public-houses?—Yes; chiefly upon the young men who have been trained in the Sabbath Schools, and who have acquired the ability to read in those schools. They largely make use of this library, and hence they occupy their time frequently on Sunday, when they would be in the public-house.

2400. Are they at liberty to take books out of the library to their own home?—Yes.

2401. Is it their practice to take books out of the library during the week to read on Sunday at home?—Yes.

2402. So that the library has afforded them the means of recreation and information, at a time when they might otherwise have been tempted to be in the public-house?—Yes.

2403. *Chairman.*] Do you object to the facility with which public-houses are established?—Decidedly.

2404. Are you a free trader?—Yes, in all good things; and I am for the prohibition of all bad things.

2405. You are of opinion that the sale of intoxicating liquors should form an exception to the ordinary rule?—Yes.

Mr. *J. Cunliffe.*

9 June 1854.

2406. You would regulate the system differently from the manner in which it is now regulated?—I would prohibit it.

2407. Sir *G. Grey.*] What would you prohibit?—In the present state of public opinion, I would not put it down all at once; but I think all legislation should tend in that direction, to cripple it in every possible way.

2408. Do you mean that legislation should tend in the direction of the absolute prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors?—The absolute prohibition, by lessening the number of public-houses by degrees, and in other respects crippling their bad influences, and especially confining landlords to the terms of their present licences.

2409. How would you gradually lessen the number of public-houses?—In all breaches of the law, for a second offence, I would deprive them of their licence, and take the licence from the house. I would disqualify the individual for ever after from holding a licence.

2410. *Chairman.*] Would you begin by granting the licence to the person instead of the house. At present, as you are aware, the house is licensed; you give a man a licence to keep a particular house?—Yes.

2411. You would therefore so far change the system as to make it dependent upon the character of the person who holds the licence?—I would disqualify the holder.

2412. If he broke the law, you would disqualify him from ever holding a licence again?—Yes.

2413. You would suggest that as the means of getting rid of public-houses altogether?—Yes.

2414. Sir *G. Grey.*] Are informations more frequent in Bolton against the keepers of public-houses than against the keepers of beerhouses?—About the average. I have a return of the number of convictions of public-houses and beerhouses.

2415. Does it show how often the same person has been convicted?—It does not show that; in that respect it is defective.

2416. You are not able to inform the Committee whether the cases of second and third convictions are frequent in Bolton?—I think not; I think they rarely come in the same year; it is allowed to pass over, and they are allowed to begin anew the following year.

2417. The recommendation which you gave just now would apply to any conviction subsequent to the first conviction?—Yes.

2418. *Chairman.*] You have no doubt that the offences are more frequent than the convictions would show?—No doubt.

2419. Sir *G. Grey.*] What is the number of public-houses in Bolton?—One hundred and eighteen.

2420. How many beerhouses are there?—Two hundred and eight.

2421. What number of convictions were there last year?—Convicted in penalty and costs, 11 public-houses and 30 beerhouses; convicted in costs only, five public-houses and 18 beerhouses.

2422. *Chairman.*] Was any licence taken away?—No.

2423. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is there an efficient police force in Bolton?—Yes.

2424. What is the number of the police?—About 30.

2425. Is that a sufficient force to exercise a vigilant superintendence over the public-houses and beerhouses?—Yes.

2426. What is their motive for informing against these public-houses; are they directed to watch them, to go into them, and give evidence against them?—They are directed to watch them; frequently the offences are so glaring and notorious that they cannot overlook them.

2427. What are the offences chiefly; Sunday trading?—Chiefly for selling at unlawful hours on Sunday.

2428. You do not doubt that that is done to a considerable extent?—No.

2429. Sir *G. Grey.*] What is the population of Bolton?—About 64,000.

2430. What is the number of persons who were convicted of drunkenness out of that population last year?—Eight hundred and fifty-eight.

2431. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether those cases of drunkenness are of people incapable of taking care of themselves?—They are divided into two classes: the Return gives, "Persons drunk and incapable, males, 312, females,

81;

81; persons drunk and disorderly, males, 376, females, 89." The two make a total of 858; but I apprehend there is a class of offences called "assaults," which is really often drunkenness.

2432. It is not classed as such?—It is not classed as such. If a person gets drunk, and commits a violent assault, he is brought up for an assault, and the drunkenness is merged in the assault.

2433. You do not get an idea of what is the whole conviction for drunkenness from those returns?—By no means from the return of persons convicted of being drunk and incapable, and persons drunk and disorderly. There are hundreds who are really drunk and staggering along; but if they will pass at all peaceably on, they are suffered to go.

2434. You have come to some conclusion generally, have you not, with respect to the effect of this drunkenness upon the habits of the people as to their moral conduct and general demeanor?—Yes.

2435. Do you consider it is the root of all the demoralisation which exists?—I think it is the great curse of the working classes especially, and the great incubus which keeps them in debasement and wretchedness.

2436. You think it chiefly arises from the facility to get spirituous liquors which is presented to them?—It largely arises from the easy way they can get drink, and the proximity to temptation.

2437. Do you believe, if the temptation were out of their way, they would be less gross, and their habits would generally improve?—I have no doubt that drunkenness would decrease 50 per cent.

2438. Do you know many instances in which people have given up drinking; where you have seen their habits totally change?—Great numbers; a most decided change.

2439. Have you any doubt that at the present time numbers would get intoxicated, not in a public-house?—There are a few; there are some "hush-shops" in Bolton, but not nearly so many as in other towns.

2440. Should you apprehend a great increase of those houses, supposing the public-houses were closed on Sunday?—I have no doubt there would be some increase.

2441. How would you reach those houses?—I would do all the law could for reaching them, for selling a wrong article.

2442. You think the inspection is not sufficiently vigilant now?—It is not sufficiently vigilant; a conviction is too difficult.

2443. Would your remedy be to appoint a person whose distinct duty it should be to watch those houses, and inform against them when they are erring?—I have no distinct opinion upon that subject; it must rest with the police authorities, or with the corporation; but I think that the conviction should be of the easiest kind possible.

2444. If you were to close these public-houses on Sunday, would it not require some person whose duty it should be specially to discover whether persons were selling spirits in other houses?—I have no doubt that the lessened duties of the police consequent upon the closing of the public-houses on Sunday would leave them more at liberty to do this.

2445. You have no doubt that the habits of a vast number of people in Bolton are those of drunkenness?—None whatever; I divide drunkenness into voluntary and involuntary; voluntary drunkenness I attach to those who are deliberate and settled drunkards, and who will have drink if they can get it.

2446. You do not suppose, do you, that by merely closing the public-houses on Sunday you would really reform those persons?—No.

2447. What would be the case with those persons if the public-houses were closed on Sunday; they would get drink?—There would be some clandestine drinking; the law would be evaded, as all laws more or less are.

2448. You do not consider it would be a complete cure?—No; it is not a complete cure that we expect, but a very great abatement; and that is the whole that we can expect the Government can do.

2449. Have you any further suggestions to make with respect to restricting the licences to those houses?—I think with regard to the Beer Act, if I might be allowed to refer to it, that the Beer Act itself has been an immense curse to the country, and ought to be gradually repealed.

Mr. *J. Cunliffe.*

9 June 1854.

2450. Do you think that the people drink more beer than spirits?—In Lancashire they do; but the Beer Act has multiplied the temptations, and brought them nearer to the people.

2451. Do confirmed drunkards drink chiefly spirits, or beer?—They vary; you cannot classify them; some of them are inveterate spirit drinkers, and others drink nothing but beer.

2452. The greatest temptations are in those houses where they stand and drink, and go out again immediately?—The greatest temptation is in those houses where the beer is cheapest.

2453. Chiefly the spirit vaults?—No; we consider that they sell cheap beer where they stand to drink at about 4 *d.* per quart, and as low as 3 *d.* per quart.

2454. That is very weak beer, is it not?—I suppose it is strong for mischief, although it is weak for anything good.

2455. If they drink plenty of it, it would have the same effect as strong beer?—Perhaps the alcoholic power is not so much derived from the presence of malt as from the presence of other sugary matters which they put in, such as treacle and so on, which will produce alcohol by fermentation.

2456. You say that the facilities have been great for the establishment of public-houses under the present system of licensing?—Yes.

2457. How do you propose to restrict it?—I would decrease the number of licences, as I have previously said, as opportunities occurred in cases of infractions of the law.

2458. Those are licences already granted?—Yes. I would never grant another.

2459. There would be an end of it, because all the houses would be closed?—Yes; that is what I am aiming at.

2460. Do you think it would be practicable?—It is my opinion that it is practicable.

2461. Immediately?—Immediately, as infractions of the law occur; in some years they might take away one licence, and the next year two licences, and so on; and probably if they saw the effect, they would be more decorous and proper in their behaviour; it might have a salutary check in that way.

2462. Your plan is a gradual prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors?—Yes, anything which has the power to make them do less mischief.

2463. Sir *G. Grey.*] Have you proposed that at a public meeting?—I have heard it frequently stated.

2464. Have you ever heard a resolution proposed to that effect at a public meeting?—We have stated it in a memorial to the magistrates, on the very last licensing day.

2465. Your society has done that?—Our society has done that, and the ratepayers.

2466. What did that memorial pray for?—That no licences might be granted, and that the number of those already granted might be decreased as opportunity served.

2467. Who signed that memorial?—The ratepayers generally.

2468. How many signatures were there to the memorial?—I think from 1,000 to 2,000.

2469. *Chairman.*] Did you ever recommend at any public meeting the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating drinks?—Yes.

2470. At a meeting where there were a great number of working people?—Yes, where there were a great number present. I have not proposed the immediate prohibition; I have taken part in what is called a Maine law meeting, which is the ultimate point of that movement.

2471. Was any resolution moved at any of your meetings to that effect?—Yes.

2472. What was the fate of it?—It was carried by all present, except one.

2473. What were the numbers at such a meeting as that?—From 500 to nearly 1,000.

2474. Was it an open-air meeting?—It was a public meeting in the Temperance Hall.

2475. Sir *G. Grey.*] This paper, which contains a copy of the memorial which you have stated was signed by 2,000 ratepayers, praying that no additional licences

icences might be granted, was printed at Ipswich; how do you account for that?—It was a copy of our memorial; we generally print the proceedings of the licensing-day; we have opposed it the last eight years.

2476. Why is it printed at Ipswich and not at Bolton?—Mr. Alexander, at Ipswich, prints temperance tracts, and seeing some good in that, he adopted it.

2477. *Chairman.*] Do the public-houses at Bolton belong to respectable people in the town?—Generally.

2478. They would not go with you in closing them?—I do not suppose they would venture their character upon opposition.

2479. Are they brewers and distillers?—Not generally.

2480. Sir *G. Grey.*] How many public-houses, if any, have been licensed by the magistrates since this memorial was presented in August 1848?—Only one to a railway station, for the last eight years; there have been no licences granted since that memorial was adopted.

2481. Are the magistrates acting in accordance with the prayer of that petition?—For the last eight years they have done so.

2482. *Chairman.*] Do you know what the increase of beerhouses has been since that time?—They have fluctuated from 180 up to 210 and 213; they change hands very much.

2483. As the law at present stands, supposing your plan were adopted, for not granting more licences by the magistrates, would not the effect be to increase the number of beerhouses?—Yes; probably it would.

2484. At present no good is done by withholding licences from victuallers, if the Beer Act is in force?—We think good is done; we regard a public-house as a more permanent form of evil; we wish to keep the evil of drink selling in as uncertain a form as we can.

2485. Why is it more permanent to sell spirits as well as beer than beer alone?—Because of the increase of vested interests; give a licence to a house and you make it of more value by 200*l.* or 300*l.*, and therefore you have more wealth about it, and more preparation, and in any act of prohibition which the Government may pass in future years, these people would come in for a larger share of compensation.

2486. You do not know the fact that the beerhouses in Bolton have increased?—They have not increased much lately.

2487. Sir *G. Grey.*] Is it your recommendation that the power should be taken away from the magistrates to grant any future licences to public-houses; and in addition to that, that no opportunity should be afforded to persons to take out a beerhouse licence?—Yes; I think we have already enough.

2488. Does not your recommendation point to the ultimate extinction of both those classes of houses?—Yes.

2489. In your opinion, nothing short of that would be an effectual check to the drunkenness in the country?—No.

2490. But you think Sunday closing would be a great improvement?—Sunday closing would be a great abatement of the evil, especially to the working classes who have time hanging heavy on Sunday.

2491. How do you propose to deal with travellers?—I would have the houses open; I would not close the houses; I would prohibit the sale of the article, and then the houses are harmless.

2492. You say that you are ready for legislation with respect to Sunday closing; how do you propose to deal with travellers then?—They should go to the houses; the houses should be kept open in accordance with their proper character as licensed victuallers' houses, to provide refreshment for travellers.

2493. How is a licensed victualler to know a traveller from anybody who says he is so, although he is not?—We cannot be responsible for people's falsehoods and impositions.

2494. Would you allow any man, who knocked at the door and said he was a traveller, to be supplied with refreshments?—The publican would be justified in so doing, unless he knew to the contrary.

2495. You would not prohibit his doing it?—No.

2496. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Would you allow a man, if he came and called himself a traveller, to have wine or spirits or beer?—I would prohibit the sale of the article on Sunday, as making a marked distinction, unless, as in the Public-houses (Scotland)

Mr. J. Cunliffe.

9 June 1854.

land) Bill you defined certain houses to receive travellers only; and then it might be a matter of privilege, as those houses would be very few, just to serve for travellers.

2497. What you propose is that certain houses should be open for the reception of travellers, but that the sale of spirits or wine or beer should be absolutely prohibited on Sunday?—Yes.

2498. Everywhere?—Yes.

2499. And supposing you are able to carry out the thing as you think best, you would wish the same practice adopted for all the rest of the week eventually?—Yes, eventually, as public opinion became ripe for it.

2500. That is what you think would be the best state of things, if it could be achieved?—Yes.

2501. That no house should be allowed to sell spirits or wine or beer at all, under any circumstances?—None at all. The danger is in the article itself. In support of a previous statement which I made with regard to the deprivation of the licence, I wish to put in a statement in reference to penalties being an ineffectual check. I have a return for Bolton, which shows the number of penalties imposed by the county magistrates from the 3d June 1853 to 3d June 1854, principally for a violation of the Sunday Act. The average penalty was 19*s.* 6*d.* in Bolton, and the average penalty for the county was 18*s.* 6*d.*; those penalties do not at all operate as a check upon the violation of the law. (*The Return was delivered in.*)

Vide Appendix.

2502 Sir *G. Grey.*] Are you aware to what extent the law would have authorised the magistrates in imposing a higher penalty?—I believe it would in most cases, impower them to impose a much higher penalty than is generally the case, 5 *l.* has been imposed.

2503 *Chairman.*] Do you mean the Committee to infer from this table that the penalties are of no use?—The penalties are ineffectual, because the violation of the law becomes a matter of calculation of profit and loss; if a man can break the law a dozen times and not be detected, and he makes a pound by it each time, he can afford to be fined a pound.

2504. Sir *G. Grey.*] Did not you say just now, that in Bolton a second conviction for the same offence was a very rare occurrence?—Not a second conviction, a third conviction.

2505. You said you thought that the convictions ought to be made more easy, what did you mean by that?—Proof of sale should be easy, and both buyer and seller should be made accessory, and treated as criminals.

2506. *Chairman.*] Have you any statement of the number of persons found in public-houses in Bolton, on the Sunday evening?—Yes, in 12 public-houses there were 231 persons present, and in 12 beerhouses 195 persons present; that was on the 4th of June 1854, between the hours of 8 and 9 o'clock p. m. (*The statement was delivered in*).

Vide Appendix.

2507. I understood you to be of opinion that the Beer Act should not be repealed immediately, but only by some gradual process?—By a gradual process.

2508. Have you ever presented to this House a petition to that effect?—Numbers have been presented with that view, this is a copy of one of the petitions. (*The same was delivered in.*)

Vide Appendix.

2509. Mr. *Gregson.*] You have stated that at Bolton the beer was all consumed by tippling at public-houses, and not by families at their meals?—Principally so.

Martis, 13° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Villiers.	Mr. Sotheron.
Mr. Brown.	Mr. Barrow.
Sir G. Goodman.	Mr. Packe.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Mr. Gregson.
Mr. Ker Seymer.	Sir J. Pakington.

THE RIGHT HON. C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Haughton*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Haughton.*

13 June 1854.

2510. *Chairman.*] YOU reside in Dublin, I believe?—Yes.

2511. You have had occasion to know the effect of opening places of amusement on Sunday, I believe, in Dublin?—To a moderate extent; not very much; but I have some information upon the subject.

2512. What places have been opened in Dublin within your recollection, which were closed before?—The Zoological Garden is the principal place; it was closed until within a few years on the Sunday, except at a very high price; it was opened a few years ago at the small charge of a penny, after church service.

2513. Can you state when it was established?—I do not know the year it was established; a good many years ago.

2514. In what year was it opened?—In 1840, at one penny on Sunday.

2515. What was the effect of opening it at that low price?—The effect was, that a very large number of people attended.

2516. Was the Zoological Garden opened with a view to induce the people to resort to it?—Yes, it was opening it at a low price, which induced the people to go there.

2517. Was it opened at the suggestion of persons who observed that the people were in the habit of resorting to public-houses, and with a view to attract them to that place?—Yes.

2518. It was thought to be a place of innocent recreation?—Certainly.

2519. And the lower classes availed themselves of it immediately?—They did, to a large extent.

2520. Has it been attended with any evil?—There has been no evil, but good altogether.

2521. Can you give the Committee any idea of the number of persons who have attended the Zoological Gardens?—I am not myself thoroughly conversant on this point. I have been in communication with the secretary of the Zoological Society, and he is the party most competent to give information upon the subject of numbers. I have, however, some information on the subject.

2522. Have there been any other gardens or places opened on the Sunday in Dublin?—No.

2523. Were not the Botanical Gardens opened?—No; the Botanical Gardens are not open on Sunday, except to the members of the Royal Dublin Society; I think it would be attended with great advantage to the public if they were opened; the respectable portion of the public have very ready access to the Botanical Gardens on Sunday, but the poor people have not.

2524. How do the poor people employ themselves generally on the Sunday; how do they spend the afternoon?—It is very hard to say; a great many employ themselves in the public-houses; a very large number are enjoying themselves with their families in walking in the country and in the Phœnix Park; very great

Mr. *J. Haughton.*

13 June 1854.

numbers are to be found every Sunday as visitors to the Zoological Gardens. I have a statement of the number of visitors to the Zoological Gardens since they were opened in 1840 at a penny.

2525. What were the numbers?—The numbers at 1 *d.* in the year 1841 were 81,404 persons.

2526. Those persons were excluded before?—They were excluded before, because they were obliged to pay 6 *d.*, and they did not in consequence attend; 2,387 persons were free; those are the members of the society who attended without any charge except the annual subscription; and the total at various prices in 1841 amounted to 97,405 persons.

2527. Has that been about the proportion which has entered the Gardens on Sundays since that time?—It has varied. In the year 1842 the total number of persons was 109,706.

[*The following Statement was read:*]

VISITORS TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

	AT ONE PENNY.	FREE.	TOTAL AT VARIOUS PRICES.
1841	81,404	2,387	97,405
1842	96,425	4,726	109,706
1843	70,415	4,444	89,706
1844	91,284	5,524	111,341
1845	98,704	4,987	132,485
1846	97,084	3,246	111,865
1847	73,107	3,501	88,685
1848	51,634	2,998	66,167
1849	51,095	3,332	64,328
1850	49,096	2,694	60,276
1851	55,807	2,342	66,160
1852	79,908	2,240	92,096
1853	65,346	2,977	78,049
1854	87,325	2,987	114,238

2528. I presume there is not a constant extension of the collection in the Zoological Gardens, and therefore there is not much variety?—No, there is not a very great variety, because the funds of the society do not admit of the purchase of a very large number of animals.

2529. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Taking the year 1841, when the numbers on Sunday were 81,000, what do you say was the gross number who went to the Zoological Gardens?—Ninety-seven thousand.

2530. Am I to understand that 81,000 went on Sunday, and that the difference between 81,000 and 97,000 was filled up by all the other days of the week?—Yes; admitted at various prices, from 6 *d.* to 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; 2 *s.* 6 *d.* is the charge on *fête* days.

2531. Eighty-one thousand is the direct gain in the numbers which were admitted on Sunday?—I should say so.

2532. In fact it makes up four-fifths of the whole number?—Yes. I have taken the following extract from a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, which is contained in the 22d Annual Report of this year, 1854, I think, ending in March: "And, above all, we have afforded to the working classes a most attractive place of rational recreation, one of which they fully avail themselves, and in which they manifest a conduct so decorous as to claim still further indulgence; upon this we chiefly found our claim to public consideration."

2533. *Chairman.*] Are any liquors sold in the Zoological Gardens?—No intoxicating liquors of any kind; there are some refreshments, such as mineral waters. I have also a copy of a letter from the secretary of the Dublin Mechanics' Institution to the secretary of the Zoological Society, just after it was opened in the year 1840; it is dated November the 5th: "Sir; I am instructed by the Board of Directors to express their gratitude to the council of the Royal Zoological Society of Dublin, for the valuable means of improvement and innocent relaxation

relaxation which they have placed within the reach of the working classes in opening their Gardens on Sundays at a premium so very low, that the humblest may (if so disposed) participate in the advantages and enjoyments they afford. May we not hope that other public institutions will follow your praiseworthy example, particularly those at whose disposal large public funds are placed. To such opportunities of improvement as your society now affords is mainly owing the intelligence, the appreciation of works of art, and that polish of manner so marked in the natives of those countries whose higher tastes and educational wants are consulted and provided for.—By order, Zechariah Dowling, Honorary Secretary and Operative Printer."

2534. You have had a good deal of communication with the working classes?—I have been constantly in communication with them for many years.

2535. Do you think the letter which you have read is a fair representation of their feelings?—Yes, I think so.

2536. You think they would desire to have places of recreation more extensively opened to them on Sunday?—Unquestionably.

2537. Are there many places of that kind in Dublin, or do they feel the want of those places?—We have a museum, and the Royal Dublin Society, and the Botanical Gardens, which are closed on Sunday; the only public place that is open for the recreation of the people on Sunday is the garden of the Zoological Society.

2538. Are there any places closed on Sunday in Dublin which might be opened?—I think it would be advisable to open the Botanical Gardens of the Royal Dublin Society at Glasnevin; it is an exceedingly beautiful place, and I think it would be highly attractive to large numbers of the working classes.

2539. Do you know any particular reason why those gardens are closed on Sunday; I believe there is no objection to opening places of amusement in Dublin on Sunday?—I am not aware of any good reason, except the trouble to the servants of the establishment.

2540. From what you have observed of the general demeanor and conduct of the working classes in Dublin, you would not expect any mischief to be done in a place of that kind?—Quite the reverse; the council of the Royal Zoological Society were at first unwilling to accede to the request which I submitted to them to open their gardens on Sunday, (the idea occurred to Dr. Ball, the honorary secretary, just at the time that I wrote to the Council on the subject) lest injury should result; they opened the gardens to the poor at a low rate after six o'clock in the evening, on the summer evenings, and the people conducted themselves so admirably on those occasions, that they had no hesitation whatever in extending the boon to Sunday, after church hours; the consequence is, that they have received a very large accession of income, and have given an immense amount of rational and innocent amusement to the people, of which they would otherwise have been deprived.

2541. In recommending the opening of those gardens, you had not in view a benefit to the society, merely but a benefit to the people themselves?—It is so long since it was done, that I can hardly say; I rather think I had both in view; the income of the society was always exceedingly limited, and with difficulty the council continued to keep out of debt; I fancied if there were a larger admission of people at a low price, of course the income would be benefited; and such was the result.

2542. Would a large class of persons be found in the public houses if they were not amusing themselves in this way?—Certainly; they consist chiefly of tradesmen, accompanied by their wives and daughters.

2543. Do you infer from that, that if the people had other attractions, and had not the temptation of public-houses and beerhouses open to them, they would resort to those places?—To a very large extent. I have no doubt the temptation of a public-house is so great, that I cannot imagine anything short of closing them entirely would do away with the evil.

2544. Are the public-houses at all closed in Dublin any portion of the day on Sunday?—Yes, until after church hours, till two o'clock.

2545. Then the law which applies to this country extends to Ireland?—I believe it does.

2546. Do you remember the time when it was otherwise?—No.

2547. Are they closed in the morning, or only during Divine service?—My impression is, that they are closed until after two o'clock.

2548. They are closed from Saturday night until after service on Sunday?—Yes.

Mr. *J. Haughton.*

13 June 1854.

2549. Are the public-houses in Dublin open on Sunday evening?—The public-houses are open on Sunday evening till a late hour; I believe till 11 or 12 o'clock on Sunday night, and every night.

2550. Is there any restriction upon public-houses as to being open; may they keep them open all night?—I think they are obliged to close at 12 o'clock; they are under police surveillance to that extent. I am not sure, but I think 12 o'clock is the hour to which they are limited.

2551. Have you any other instance in which the people have gone to places, such as the Zoological Gardens in Dublin, which have been recently opened?—There are no other places.

2552. Is there a good deal of drunkenness in Dublin on Sunday evening?—Drunkenness has not increased in Dublin very materially; that is, if we are to judge from the committments by the police magistrates; but there is no doubt there is a very large quantity of drunkenness; upwards of 13,000 persons are taken up in Dublin annually for that vice alone.

2553. For drunkenness?—For drunkenness, and disorders arising from it.

2554. Are the publicans themselves convicted for any irregularity?—Yes; they are liable to severe punishment for breaches of the law.

2555. Does the Beer Act extend to Ireland?—No, I think not. We hear of very little evil arising from beer drinking.

2556. Are all the public-houses licensed in Dublin?—Yes, all of them.

2557. Do they receive the license from the municipal magistrates?—The publicans obtain their licenses by application to the Recorder, I think, once a year, and they must have that application supported by a magistrate, and by some two or more (I believe half a dozen) householders, certifying that they are respectable parties to whom a license may be safely granted. Publicans are appointed by the Recorder, who grants licenses according to his idea of the need of such public accommodation. A house once licensed, becomes valuable, and will let, perhaps, at five or six times the rent it would otherwise bring. Many such houses are owned by our brewers. An application for a new license must have a magistrate's recommendation, supported by some five or six householders in the neighbourhood. Such applications are frequently much opposed both by publicans, who dislike more opposition in trade, and by respectable householders, who dread the scenes of vice and misery so frequently witnessed in and near public-houses: they make a residence in the neighbourhood disagreeable, and they lessen the value of property. It is incorrect to say that no licenses are granted in Ireland, the fact being that parties who sell spirits without licenses are subject to a heavy penalty. Public-houses are liable to police inspection at all hours, by night as well as by day, and publicans are subjected to constant surveillance, and to fines for breaches of the law. All this regulation of the trade is insufficient for the prevention of drunkenness. Nothing short of doing away with the temptation to drink can be effectual for abating the nuisance; that is my own private opinion. Grocers get licenses on easier terms than publicans, but they are prohibited from selling by retail, or from allowing spirits to be drunk on the premises. I understand grocers get licenses more freely, and there is not the same strict examination.

2558. Can a grocer sell any spirits?—Yes, but not by retail; he may sell to persons coming in and carrying it away; I do not know what the quantity is.

2559. He may not have it drunk on the premises?—No.

2560. May he sell any quantity to be taken away?—Yes, to be taken away by the purchaser.

2561. Is there any mischief attending that practice?—A great deal of mischief attends that practice. The giving of licenses to grocers is a thing which requires particular attention; in fact, it was attended with so much evil that at one time, the grocers in Ireland were prohibited altogether from selling spirits; but they managed to sell them by taking a house next door, or dividing their premises, and having a party selling who was not the ostensible owner of the grocer's establishment. I rather think that law was relaxed or altered some years ago; and now they are allowed to sell, but prohibited from allowing it to be drunk on the premises. There is a deal of drunkenness amongst the domestic servants, particularly females; and it is said, and entirely believed, that it originates in these grocers' shops. The grocers pile up empty tea-chests, or full tea-chests, as the case may be, round which the women go and get a glass of drink. They get it either for nothing, as being customers to the house on behalf of their employers,

or

or they pay for it and drink it surreptitiously, without the knowledge of the police. I have heard that a good many cases come before the magistrates in consequence of the grocers breaking through the law in respect to allowing drink to be consumed on the premises.

2562. It is a distinct evasion of the law?—A distinct evasion of the law, for which several have been punished.

2563. Do you say that they frequently give their customers drink?—It is imagined that they give drink for nothing to their customers; and the servants coming in in this way, are very often made accustomed to drink, and the appetite for it is created, and the women servants are very much injured in consequence of the practice.

2564. Do you think that that results from allowing grocers to sell spirits, or from the inveterate habits of drinking which those persons have who go to the grocers' shops?—I think the habit is created by going to the grocers' shops and getting the spirits. When once the habit is created, we know how difficult it is to eradicate it. I do not think any restriction by Parliament could prevent that evil: I do not know of any mode of preventing the evil except by entire prohibition of the manufacture of strong drinks.

2565. Does the practice which you have described prevail much in Dublin?—Yes.

2566. That illegitimate mode of disposing of drink might be practised by any other tradesman in Dublin, whether licensed or not?—It is so dangerous that it is not likely to be practised to any extent. I do not think spirits are sold to any great extent without a license.

2567. They might give away what they pretended was for their household use?—I do not think that is done to any extent.

2568. You think that spirits are sold generally in places licensed for the express purpose?—Yes.

2569. Are any other classes of tradesmen allowed to sell spirits but grocers?—None other but publicans, that I am aware of.

2570. I think you state that they have to apply to the Recorder for a license?—I think the grocers have no occasion to apply to the Recorder for a license; I am not certain upon that point. I think the magistrate's certificate is sufficient.

2571. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Do the grocers get the license from the Excise?—Yes.

2572. Supposing the regulation with respect to grocers was, that they were not allowed to sell a smaller quantity than one bottle, do you think that would meet the evil?—I do not think it would meet the evil, for this reason; it would be impossible to prevent them from selling in a smaller quantity. I do not see how it could be done. The parties go in, and there is no one to detect them; they may take as small a quantity as they please, unless a policeman happen to be present.

2573. *Chairman.*] They must do it secretly?—Yes; now it is contrary to law.

2574. You state that there are great temptations to consume liquors on the grocers' premises; I presume it does not occur openly in the grocers' shops or that people tipple on the premises as they do in the public-houses?—In the public-houses they can take it quite openly if they please; but anything they drink in the grocer's establishment is done in secret.

2575. Therefore, though it is an evil, it is not so great an evil as tippling openly in the public-houses?—I do not know that it is so extensive an evil; it is an evil which does not involve so great a number of persons; but it is as great an evil to the individual, and probably greater; I think it is worse in its effects upon the individual.

2576. You think it would be no improvement in the law if persons were not allowed to drink on the premises, whether in a regular public-house, or in a grocer's shop?—I do not think it would be much improvement, or any; I can hardly imagine that such a law could be carried into effect.

2577. You think it would be evaded?—I think it would be impossible to carry it into effect.

2578. Sir *G. Goodman.*] As you pass through the country, is it not the case that you can get the "native," along with milk, all the way you travel?—It is to be had everywhere.

2579. Is that contrary to the law?—I do not think it is contrary to the law, except

Mr. J. Haughton.

13 June 1854.

except in those houses which are called shebeen houses; they sell without a license, and they run a risk; but there are regularly licensed houses, which are authorised to sell spirits, except at the prohibited hours.

2580. *Chairman.*] There is nothing to prevent a person buying a bottle of spirits at a grocer's shop, and giving away a glass of liquor to his friends?—It must not be drunk on the premises; to have it drunk on the premises would be clearly illegal. I have a few memoranda which, with the Committee's permission, I will read. I have no doubt the public-houses might be closed altogether without fear of serious dissatisfaction on the part of the people, who are, as far as I have observed, in favour of a Maine liquor law. We had several meetings on the subject, and in no instance has there been any opposition to our opinion upon that subject on the part of the people; they seem to understand quite well that the law passed in Maine would be advantageous, inasmuch as it would take a way temptation altogether; and I believe that the drunkards, or those who are most strongly attached to the use of intoxicating drinks, would be probably the foremost in coinciding with us in that view.

2581. You are stating this after having considerable experience of the opinions and habits of the people in Dublin?—Yes.

2582. You deliberately state to the Committee that you believe they would not offer any objection if the Legislature were to go so far to alter the law as to prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors altogether?—That is my decided opinion; but I should be sorry if I had the power, to pass a law of that kind without reference to the people on the subject first: though I hold the opinion strongly that they would go entirely with us, I am not certain of it, therefore I would not recommend legislation without consulting them upon the subject.

2583. Upon what grounds have you founded that opinion, that the people of Dublin would not offer any resistance; have there been any public meetings upon the subject, or has anything occurred which has led you to that conclusion?—We have had two public meetings in Dublin recently on the subject, and several have been held in the north of Ireland, in Belfast and other towns; one meeting was held in Waterford; and at all those meetings the people seemed to receive with delight and joy the prospect of any law which would entirely do away with the temptation by which they are now surrounded.

2584. Has there been any opposition given to those meetings?—No.

2585. Has any resolution been passed?—Yes, several, and they were carried without opposition.

2586. Was that a resolution for the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating drinks?—Yes, for the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks. I would throw open all places of innocent recreation and amusement as much as possible, and encourage the establishment of such places, both in the towns and in the country. Music is a good auxiliary, particularly for the young.

2587. Are the Irish fond of music?—They are fond of music.

2588. Have you many concert-rooms in Dublin?—Yes, but not for the poor, except the temperance bands. The people of Dublin are fond of music. I learnt from the collector of excise a few days ago, that the excise receipts in Dublin, in 1840, were about 240,000 *l*; last year they amounted to nearly 500,000 *l*.

2589. Were those receipts for duties on spirits?—They were Excise receipts, I believe, on other articles as well; tobacco is an exciseable article, and some others. The increase was chiefly on whiskey, showing that there is a considerable increase in its consumption; the consumption of whiskey has increased about three millions of gallons beyond the lowest point to which teetotalism had reduced it, which was, I think, from about 12 millions to five millions of gallons. The largest consumption we have had in Ireland was 12 millions of gallons, and the lowest a little over five millions.

2590. To what period do you refer when it was the lowest?—I think it was about the year 1842.

2591. Was there not a great temperance movement in Ireland about that time?—Yes.

2592. Do you account for the reduction in that way?—Entirely in that way, no doubt. A reduction always attended the extraordinary enthusiasm which followed the labours of Father Mathew in Ireland.

2593. He was supported by O'Connell at that time, was he not?—Yes; he was supported by the whole population. Many millions of people, it was believed, gave up the use of intoxicating drink at that time.

2594. Were

467

Mr. J. Haughton.

13 June 1854.

2594. Were you in Dublin at that time?—Yes.

2595. Do you remember seeing any of the effects of that movement?—Yes.

2596. Were they very apparent?—Very striking indeed.

2597. And very useful?—And very useful.

2598. Could you say that there was a general difference in the appearance of the lower classes in consequence?—It was apparent to every observer.

2599. Were the people better clothed?—The people were better clothed and better behaved in every way; indeed, I am happy to say that they continue so to a very great extent.

2600. The temperance fit did not last very long?—It has by no means entirely gone down; we have still a large number of persons who adhere steadily to the principle of teetotalism. The consumption of whiskey in Ireland manifested a considerable falling away from that practice. The consumption is now about eight millions of gallons, and it was 12 millions at the date of Father Mathew's movement, so that much permanent good has, I trust, been effected.

2601. You do not know in what year it was 12 millions, but I presume it was before 1842?—Yes; last year the quantity which paid duty was 8,136,362 gallons, which shows an increase of three millions of gallons on the smallest quantity consumed by the Irish people in one year. Some stop must be put to this waste of our national resources, or demoralization and poverty must increase. Persons found in public-houses during prohibited hours are, I understand, liable to punishment, as well as the publican, but in practice, I am informed, they are simply turned out of the house; they are never punished.

2602. Is that law in practice in Dublin generally, that if there is a violation of the law, the customer is equally liable with the publican?—I believe it is the fact that he is liable to punishment, but in practice no punishment is ever inflicted, unless they oppose the police, and for opposing the police they are punished. When they are brought to the police-office, they are confined during the night, and probably discharged the following morning by the magistrate, after receiving a reprimand. I believe if they go quietly out of the house, there is no further notice taken of them. Publicans who break the law three times, are liable, if convicted, to be deprived of their license, at the discretion of the magistrate.

2603. I presume those informations against the publicans are brought before the municipal magistrates?—Yes, before the district magistrates.

2604. Not before the Recorder?—No. The revenue from spirits in Ireland was doubtless much reduced by the temperance reformation. I have not been able to ascertain how far that reduction was compensated for by an increased consumption of other exciseable articles; but the annexed Table, taken from official returns, shows that a considerable increase did take place in some articles about that period. In sugar there appears to be little change; but it is supposed there is also a large increase in this article, as refined sugar is largely imported into Ireland, the duty on which is paid in England and Scotland. The paper manufactured in Ireland shows a large increase; it was, in 1835, 2,700,000 lbs.; in 1840, 3,590,000 lbs.; and, in 1850, 6,719,000 lbs.; that was the increase in the manufacture of paper, which, being an exciseable article, of course the revenue benefited by the increase of consumption. We may infer that this increase was, in a considerable degree, owing to the increased capability of the people for consuming the paper having money to spend in paper, which probably would have been expended in the public-houses.

2605. Do you know whether articles of necessary consumption have equally been consumed to a greater extent?—I can give you considerable information upon that point; I have a list here of the duties received on spirits, tea, sugar and tobacco, from the year 1836 to the year 1853; and it shows that when the receipts for spirits was reduced, the revenue was increased on other articles, which then came more largely into consumption.

[*The same was read, as follows:*]

Mr. J. Haughton.

13 June 1854.

——	SPIRITS.	TEA.	SUGAR.	TOBACCO.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
1836	1,436,191	476,239	406,601	727,642
1839	1,510,092	409,553	395,647	766,668
1840	1,402,130	437,480	403,788	782,788
1841	1,032,582	453,924	413,106	830,345
1842	964,711	534,563	428,181	863,946
1843	1,005,986	556,030	449,092	852,542
1844	942,988	602,005	443,979	838,373
1845	1,014,505	640,048	458,205	880,073
1846	1,196,837	723,925	346,131	927,311
1847	1,288,529	763,047	404,696	939,904
1848	986,843	712,475	433,603	805,739
1849	1,096,852	737,307	352,513	811,691
1850	1,050,765	701,145	272,160	749,238
1851	1,100,570	—	—	—
1852	1,247,029	755,199	222,129	706,723
1853	1,482,308	759,864	267,376	730,832

2606. Mr. *Gregson.*] With the exception of the last year, the item of spirits seems to run pretty equally at about a million?—Yes; during the time of our temperance reformation.

2607. In 1853 you show an increase to the amount of 400,000 *l.*?—Yes, in 1836, 1839, 1840, 1852 and 1853 the amount was the largest; in the intermediate years there was a decrease; that decrease appears to have been made up by the increase on the receipts from tea, sugar and tobacco to a great extent, although not entirely.

2608. *Chairman.*] Do you connect that increase in tea, sugar and tobacco with the circumstance of the people abstaining from the consumption of spirits?—I think we may fairly infer that that was the cause. I do not know of any other cause which was likely to have produced the result.

2609. Mr. *Gregson.*] Has there been any perceptible fluctuation in the commodities of which you speak, tea, sugar, and tobacco?—In 1836 the receipts for tea were 476,000 *l.*, in 1839 only 405,000 *l.*; in 1842, when the receipt on spirits was under a million, it was 534,000, and in the year 1844 it was 602,000, showing a very considerable increase as the consumption of spirits decreased. In the year 1848 the spirits were again under a million, and tea rose to 712,000 *l.* from 476,000 in the year 1836. The increase of our population in the meantime might have affected it to a considerable extent. It was just about 1847 and 1848 that we had a decrease in the population, in consequence of our famine.

2610. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know, from your connection with the temperance movement, anything of the habits of the people who abstained from the consumption of spirits; did they consume more tea?—They presented a much more comfortable appearance in themselves.

2611. You do not know anything about the habits of the individuals who have changed from the habit of drinking?—No, I do not; the same facts are apparent from the consumption of tobacco.

2612. Mr. *Gregson.*] The amount for tobacco does not vary very much?—It varies 100,000 *l.* a year and 200,000 *l.* a year; in the year 1836 it was 727,000 *l.*, in the year 1845 it was 880,000 *l.*, in the year 1849, 811,000 *l.*, showing, therefore, that there was an increase, and that the revenue, from some cause or another, suffered little, if any loss.

2613. It has come down since?—Tobacco has come down, because whiskey has increased; it came down from 811,000 *l.* in 1849, to 730,000 in 1853, whiskey increasing in a corresponding degree, thereby showing that the revenue is pretty nearly the same. The statistics on that subject are quite consistent. I have here a very interesting statement, showing the results in the United Kingdom during 30 years, that is, 15 years before the temperance reformation commenced, and 15 years succeeding. It shows in the same way that the revenue has not suffered, that the increase in sugar, coffee, tea, and cocoa, has been so great as to compensate, I should imagine, for any loss which would have arisen from the decreased consumption of intoxicating liquors.

2614. Mr. *Gregson.*] What is the book to which you are referring?—The "Scottish Temperance Review," April 1851.

[*The following Tables were delivered in:*]

An ACCOUNT of the Quantities of the undermentioned ARTICLES retained for Consumption in the *United Kingdom* in each of the Years ending 5th January, from 1821 to 1835.

YEARS ending 5 January	Coffee.	Tea.	Cocoa.	Rum.	Foreign Spirits.	Wine.	British Spirits.	Malt.
	Lbs.	*Lbs.*	*Lbs.*	*Gallons.*	*Gallons.*	*Gallons.*	*Gallons.*	*Bushels.*
1821 -	7,103,409	22,426,627	276,321	2,489,120	957,340	4,586,485	8,349,170	27,889,210
1822 -	7,598,001	22,496,571	283,735	2,324,315	1,013,400	4,686,885	8,698,620	32,006,466
1823 -	7,669,351	23,559,155	267,495	2,246,836	1,100,504	4,606,999	8,754,291	28,282,292
1824 -	8,454,920	23,762,470	286,657	2,349,660	1,190,678	4,845,060	9,102,819	28,168,658
1825 -	8,262,943	23,784,838	318,941	2,551,646	1,317,671	5,030,091	15,107,849	32,573,990
1826 -	11,082,970	24,830,015	347,251	2,095,687	1,409,586	8,009,542	18,687,845	36,295,843
1827 -	13,203,323	25,238,067	344,776	4,305,316	1,549,774	6,058,443	18,233,400	32,468,778
1828 -	15,566,376	26,043,223	385,793	3,288,606	1,373,156	6,826,361	19,684,678	29,613,502
1829 -	17,127,633	26,790,481	354,407	3,277,653	1,380,745	7,162,376	23,413,770	36,794,520
1830 -	19,476,180	29,495,214	393,847	3,375,866	1,347,125	6,217,652	22,690,270	29,153,675
1831 -	22,691,582	30,255,299	425,382	3,658,958	1,316,770	6,434,445	22,279,186	35,160,809
1832 -	22,740,627	29,997,055	502,806	3,624,597	1,268,198	6,212,264	21,103,501	40,334,987
1833 -	22,952,527	31,548,381	1,150,193	2,537,807	1,633,637	5,600,291	20,778,521	37,390,449
1834 -	22,741,984	31,829,620	1,268,287	3,492,193	1,387,774	6,207,770	21,874,455	40,075,890
1835 -	23,785,095	34,969,651	1,173,795	3,345,177	1,410,271	6,480,544	23,397,806	41,145,596
				*3,902,706	1,645,316	7,560,634	27,297,443	42,392,432
				†2,990,345	1,151,906	5,510,049	10,033,413	33,504,685
Actual Increase per cent. from 1821 to 1835, both inclusive, when the 1–6th and 1–33d are added -				56·79 per cent.	71·86 per cent.	64·84 per cent.	226·94 per cent.	52·00 per cent.

* This line is the quantity used in 1835, old measure.

† This line contains the quantity of each article that would have been used by the increased population of 1835, supposing they had drunk the same quantity per head as was consumed by the population of 1821..

N.B. The new or imperial measure for liquid (one-sixth more than the old), was adopted in 1826, and also the new dry measure for malt, which is one thirty-third more; consequently we have adopted the old measure in all statements of comparative increase or decrease.

YEARS ended 5 January	Coffee.	Tea.	Cocoa.	Rum.	Other Foreign and Colonial Spirits.	British Spirits.	Beer.	Malt.	Wine.
	Lbs.	*Lbs.*	*Lbs.*	*Gallons.*	*Gallons.*	*Gallons.*	*Barrels.*	*Bushels.*	*Gallons.*
1836 -	23,295,046	36,574,004	1,084,170	3,416,966	1,348,740	24,710,208	16,330,010	42,892,054	6,420,342
1837 -	24,947,690	49,142,236	1,130,168	3,324,749	1,292,271	26,745,300	17,018,429	44,387,719	6,800,212
1838 -	26,346,961	30,625,206	1,416,613	3,184,255	1,240,210	24,493,539	15,988,035	40,551,049	6,391,531
1839 -	25,765,673	32,351,593	1,691,787	3,135,651	1,232,574	26,486,543	16,039,597	40,505,566	6,990,271
1840 -	26,789,945	35,127,287	1,606,800	2,830,263	1,195,154	25,190,843	15,883,311	39,930,941	7,000,486
1841 -	28,664,341	32,252,628	2,041,678	2,512,960	1,131,450	21,859,337	15,769,434	42,456,862	6,553,922
1842 -	28,370,857	36,675,667	1,928,847	2,277,970	1,186,104	20,642,333	14,537,266	36,164,448	6,184,960
1843 -	38,519,646	37,355,911	2,246,569	2,097,747	1,103,268	18,841,890	14,284,646	35,851,394	4,815,222
1844 -	29,979,404	40,293,393	2,547,934	2,103,715	1,058,242	18,864,332	14,122,191	35,963,890	6,068,987
1845 -	31,352,382	41,363,770	2,589,977	2,198,592	1,044,014	20,608,525	14,621,854	37,187,186	6,838,684
1846 -	34,293,190	44,193,433	2,579,497	2,469,135	1,080,754	23,122,588	14,925,113	36,545,990	6,736,131
1847 -	36,754,554	46,740,344	2,951,206	2,683,701	1,561,629	24,106,697	16,283,298	42,087,095	6,740,316
1848 -	37,441,373	46,314,821	3,079,198	3,328,985	1,574,068	20,639,797	14,515,391	35,307,813	6,053,847
1849 -	37,077,546	48,734,789	2,919,591	2,986,979	1,648,384	22,202,450	14,555,010	37,546,157	6,136,547
1850 -	34,431,074	50,024,688	3,233,372	3,044,758	2,224,709	22,962,012	15,213,681	38,935,460	6,247,689

Mr. *J. Haughton.*

13 June 1854.

2615. *Chairman.*] Your conclusion is, that the revenue has nothing to apprehend from the people abstaining from spirituous liquors, because they would have more money in their pockets to spend upon exciseable articles?—That is my conclusion. My strong conviction is that the revenue would in a little time greatly increase, because if we increase the wealth of the people it is quite clear that the revenue must be improved by that increase of wealth. If the consumption of intoxicating drinks has the tendency to decrease the wealth of the people, which I believe it has to a great extent, the abandonment of habits of drinking would necessarily increase the wealth of the people and increase the revenue at the same time. On that point I have an interesting pamphlet which is attributed to Mr. Napier, and was addressed to the late Dr. Cheyne, a physician of eminence in Dublin, who took a great interest in this movement, and the entire argument goes to prove that the revenue would be improved. The title of the pamphlet is, "A Letter to a Member of the Dublin Temperance Society on the supposed Value of Ardent Spirits, in relation to National Wealth, Government, Revenue, Rent, and Agricultural Profits."

2616. Are there any facts in that work which you propose to submit to the Committee?—There are a great many exceedingly interesting facts and statements; there are conclusions drawn from reasoning upon the subject, which appear to my mind quite conclusive.

2617. Mr. *Gregson.*] What is the date of that pamphlet?—One thousand eight hundred and thirty. I have here a memorandum, taken from an interesting book, "Morewood's History of Inebriating Liquors.' Mr. Morewood was the collector of Excise in Dublin; I drew the statement up in order to show the enormous increase in the appetite for whisky in Ireland within the last century. It appears that in the year 1723 there were only 133,773 gallons of spirits distilled in Ireland, and in the year 1837, being a little more than a century, we had increased the amount of spirits distilled to nearly 12,000,000 of gallons.

2618. Have you the population at those two periods?—I have not the population at those two periods; but I know it was not at all in proportion to the increase of spirits, though there was a very great increase in the population.*

[*The following Paper was read:*]

From Morewood's History of Inebriating Liquors.

Distillation of Spirits in Ireland.

	Gallons.
1723	133,773
1730	134,748
1740	239,811
1750	598,546
1760	225,217
1770	801,174
1780	1,229,416
1790	2,926,795
1800	3,621,498
1810	6,412,625
1820	4,636,192
1830	9,208,538
1837	11,809,603

2619. Mr. *Brown.*] Have you any account of the quantity of wine which was consumed during the same period; I believe the duty on wine was comparatively small at that time?—Wine is stated in this pamphlet as well as other intoxicating drinks. It appears that the decrease in wine is less than any other article, showing that the wealthier classes of the community have been less affected by the temperance movement in the United Kingdom than the tradesmen and poorer classes. It appears, by this statement, that the consumption of wine in England in the year

* I have since ascertained the population in the periods above referred to. It was in 1726, 2,309,106; in 1837 about 8,000,000; in 1831 the census was 7,767,401.

year 1836 was 6,420,342 gallons; the consumption in 1850 was very nearly the same, 6,247,689 gallons. Now, during the same period, the decrease in the consumption of rum, foreign and colonial spirits, British spirits, wine and beer, amounted to 40,524,932 gallons, showing that there is a very considerable improvement in the habits of the people of the United Kingdom generally as regards the consumption of these drinks; and that, deplorable as the evil is, it is not so bad as it was a number of years ago. The consumption of intoxicating drinks for the first period of 15 years, in the United Kingdom, was gradually, continually, and rapidly increasing.

2620. *Chairman.*] Do you mean the first 15 years of this century?—From 1821 to 1835 there was a great increase every year in the consumption; and from 1835 to 1850 there has been a steady decrease in the consumption.

2621. Is there much taste for wine amongst the lower classes in Ireland?—I suppose next to none whatever.

2622. Is wine sold at the public-houses?—Certainly.

2623. I suppose the people chiefly get drunk on spirits in Ireland?—Yes, almost entirely on spirits.

2624. Should you expect that there would be a great reduction in the consumption of spirits if the public-houses were only closed on Sunday?—Very great indeed; I apprehend the consumption on Saturday night and Sunday is nearly as much as on the other days of the week together.

2625. Is that the time when there is the most drunkenness?—I presume it must be so; the police reports will show that the committals are much larger on Monday morning than on any other mornings in the week.

2626. Do you think that closing the public-houses on Sunday would cause much resistance, or that itwould tend very much to check intemperance?—My own opinion is, that there would be no resistance whatever on the part of the people; of course a great number would be more or less dissatisfied in being deprived of their usual enjoyment, as they call it, but I do not think there would be any serious opposition; on the contrary. In fact there was a petition recently got up in Dublin by the Reverend Dr. Spratt, who takes a great interest in this movement, and forwarded to Mr. John O'Connell, (I believe it has not yet been presented to the House of Commons), signed by 7,000 persons, praying that the public-houses might be closed altogether on Sunday.

2627. By what class of persons was that petition signed?—By the poorer class. Upwards of 700 persons of high respectability, including clergymen of various persuasions, signed another petition to the same effect, which was presented by some other Member of the House from Dublin.

2628. Were either of those petitions signed by the priests?—Yes; the priests are highly favourable to the movement; I believe that all parties except the publicans would rejoice in having the public-houses closed on Sunday.

2629. Is there any great opposition offered to opening other places of recreation besides the Zoological Gardens on Sunday in Dublin?—We have not many places of recreation to be opened; we have only the Botanical Garden and the Museum of the Royal Dublin Society. I have never heard that subject discussed.

2630. Mr. *Brown.*] Are there any free libraries in Dublin?—We have an admirable library attached to our Mechanics' Institution, containing about 8,000 volumes; that is shut on Sunday. The people might open it if they pleased, but they do not, though it belongs to themselves.

2631. *Chairman.*] Are there a great number of houses in Dublin which sell liquors without being licensed?—I have heard that there are several; I am not aware of the fact myself; I do not think there are many.

2632. If you were to close the licensed public-houses on Sunday, should you not expect that a great number of people would resort to such houses for the purpose of indulging in their usual habits?—We have heard that such would be the result; of course every law is liable to be broken.

2633. You think it would be a great mitigation of the evil if the licensed houses were closed?—Very great.

2634. What time are they open now on Sunday?—They are open for the whole of the Sunday after two o'clock.

2635. You would not object to their being open for two hours, or would you close them altogether?—I would close them altogether; I have little hope of any measures to regulate this evil, if it be acknowledged to be an evil; and I think the constant and universal attempt to regulate it everywhere in every civilised country

Mr. *J. Haughton.*

13 June 1854.

is a proof that mankind have looked upon the sale of intoxicating liquors as being dangerous to the community.

2636. What are the habits of the lower classes in Dublin; do they send to the public-houses for spirits to drink with their dinners?—I do not think they drink a great deal in their families; they take their wives and their sweethearts occasionally to the public-house to treat them to strong drink; I do not think they often take their children.

2637. Is it not much more the practice of the Irish to drink spirits than beer?—Yes.

2638. Would you infer fom that that the inconvenience of closing the public-houses on Sunday would be less in Dublin, seeing that they could lay in a stock of spirits at home, than in England where it is the habit of the people to drink beer?—It strikes me that it is not the habit of our people to drink in their houses, and therefore it would not make much difference.

2639. Do they generally keep a spirit bottle at home?—I do not think they do; if they send for it they drink it almost immediately they get it in. I do not think they keep much by them.

2640. Is there any other suggestion which you would make for the amendment of the law?—I have here a work published by a merchant in our city many years ago, entitled "An Inquiry into the Influence of the Excessive Use of Spirituous Liquors in producing Crime, Disease, and Poverty in Ireland." The writer goes at large into all these particulars, but the point which I thought would be probably most interesting to the Committee was that from which it would appear that the revenue instead of being injured by the total suppression of distillation was ultimately benefited. The Committee is probably not aware that several times within the last 50 or 60 years distillation was prohibited in Ireland in seasons of apprehended scarcity. Now the results are very interesting. During the years 1809 and 1810, distillation was stopped, in consequence of an apprehended scarcity of food, but still that scarcity did not produce the result which might have been expected, for there was a very large increase in the importation of drapery, both new and old, during those two years, of blankets, cotton goods, haberdashery, earthenware, black tea, muscovado sugar, and hops, whence I infer that the Excise could not have lost, because the people had the means of consuming other articles, and did consume other articles to a large extent. Then the same effect took place in the years 1813 and 1814. Immediately after that there was a large increase in the consumption of spirits, and a corresponding decrease in the importation of those articles to which I have referred, and to a large amount, accompanied by an increase of crime. In the years 1813 and 1814 distillation was again stopped, and the same results took place, of a very large increase in the consumption of new and old drapery. "The annexed certificate of the Lord Mayor, and other magistrates of the city, which, in 1811, was laid before Parliament, places it beyond doubt that an increase in crime was caused by the increased use of spirituous liquors:—'We, the Lord Mayor and undersigned magistrates of the City of Dublin, certify that we have observed that within the last 12 months there has been a deplorable increase of profligacy amongst the lower orders of the people in the metropolis and its neighbourhood, and this effect appears to us to have arisen from the very low price of spirituous liquors during the above period; and we are decidedly of opinion that in proportion as a facility of intoxication is afforded to the lower order of society, the industry of that class is relaxed, their health impaired, and their crimes multiplied.'" That is the universal testimony.

2641. Mr. *Gregson.*] Can you give the total revenue of those years?—No.

2642. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] What you are stating is only an inference of your own?—It is the inference of the writer of this work, or, I should rather say, the facts stated by him.

2643. *Chairman.*] You have alluded to two periods when distillation was stopped, and they correspond in one result that many more articles of ordinary consumption were imported?—Yes, to a very striking extent.

2644. Do you remember the price of provisions at that period; was it likely to have diminished the consumption of other articles?—No.

2645. Is that the inference which you draw generally, that whenever there has been a temperance movement the people consumed more manufactured goods?—Yes. The period to which I am now referring was long before temperance was thought of; the people were only prevented from drinking because they could not get the article; it was not manufactured. I draw the inference, that if we could now

prohibit

prohibit the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors, the same happy results would follow.

2646. It is not only that the revenue does not suffer, but there is actually an increase in the import of manufactured goods?—Yes.

2647. Mr. *Brown.*] These distilleries were stopped, under the apprehension that provisions would be scarce and high in price; notwithstanding that apprehension, it appears that the people had more money to lay out in other things than they had formerly, because they could not get spirits?—Yes; and we exported so largely of oats during those periods of apprehended scarcity, that the amount was 500,000 *l.* more than in a year of imaginary plenty, when the distillers consumed the corn; so that the people actually exported oats to the extent of 500,000 *l.* from Ireland, and imported valuable articles of manufacture from England to supply their wants during a period when it was imagined they were all to be starved, because food was so deficient. The conclusion which seems inevitable to my mind is, that our scarcity is created by the destruction of our food in distilleries and breweries, and that we should never have any scarcity of food if that was not the case. I doubt that there was ever a scarcity of food in Ireland bordering on famine until the famine of 1846, 1847, and 1848.

2648. Do any of the works which you have in your possession point to the whole amount spent in spirituous liquors in the United Kingdom?—No; there have been calculations to that effect, and I have made some calculations myself. The amount is computed to be 70 or 80 millions a year. So far back as 1839, I myself suggested to the teetotallers of Dublin that they might fairly petition Parliament for an exemption from the poor-rates and police taxes, on the ground that the criminals and paupers were not drawn from their ranks. Mendicity and other benevolent institutions are not very valuable to society, as they are established to cure rather than to prevent evils. Teetotalism is the true remedy. There were 1,734 public-houses in Dublin in the year 1839; at the present time there are only 1,060; so that there has been a reduction of 700 public-houses in Dublin since the year 1839.

2649. *Chairman.*] Has the population in Dublin decreased latterly?—Notwithstanding the falling off of the general population of the country, I believe the population of Dublin has increased.

2650. Do you connect the decrease in the number of public-houses with the temperance movement?—There is no doubt of it at all; I believe it is unquestionable. The calculation that I made with respect to the expenditure for spirituous liquors is this; taking an average daily receipt of 3 *l.* for each public-house, and calling the entire number 1,800, the sum expended annually would amount to nearly 2,000,000 *l.* in Dublin alone. In Ireland it would amount by similar calculation to 27 millions.

2651. Have any other description of houses been started for the sale of spirituous liquors which did not exist before that time?—No others.

2652. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Does not that decrease in the number of public-houses suggest to your mind that you must look more to an improved feeling on the part of the people themselves than to restrictive legislation, for the diminution of drunkenness?—I have had that always impressed upon my mind; but I believe that the time has arrived when it would be wise to bring legislative action in support of moral suasion. The temptation to drink appears too great for the people to withstand.

2653. *Chairman.*] Do you think that public sentiment would sanction such a change in law in Ireland?—I can best answer that question by stating that I have repeatedly said of late, within the last 12 months, that if we had universal suffrage in Ireland we would carry the Maine law in 12 months; that is my opinion.

2654. Mr. *Gregson.*] Have you any records of drunkenness during the period when distillation was prohibited in Ireland?—No.

2655. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Your own principles would carry you far beyond closing the public-houses on Sunday, to the adoption of the Maine law?—Undoubtedly; I see no other real good to be derived from legislation; I do not think that legislation to regulate an evil is either wise or effective; if drinking be an evil, it should be suppressed by the legislature, and that it is an evil is universally admitted.

2656. Has anything resembling the Maine law been raised to anything approaching public discussion?—We have had several meetings in Dublin, Waterford, Belfast, and many towns in the north of Ireland.

2657. Have both parties been heard at those meetings?—The meetings have been public; there has never been any opposition to a resolution in favour of the

Mr. J. Haughton.

13 June 1854.

Maine law; I do not mean to infer that all parties are agreed on the subject; parties disposed to differ would not come to those meetings, knowing that the object of the persons convening them was to give information upon the subject; good feeling and a courteous demeanor might prevent persons going to express their sentiments in opposition.

2658. *Chairman.*] Do the public-houses in Dublin belong to the persons occupying them, or to respectable owners in the city?—A number belong to brewers, as is the case in London and in other large towns.

2659. Mr. *Brown.*] Have you made any calculation, assuming that there are in round numbers 30,000,000 of people in the United Kingdom, of what would be the saving if spirituous liquors were not consumed?—If there was an entire disuse of intoxicating drinks in the United Kingdom, I believe the saving would be 150,000,000 *l.* a year.

2660. You do not mean altogether in drink, but in prosecutions?—Drink and its consequences; probably about half the amount is spent in intoxicating drinks; somewhere about 70,000,000 *l.* or 80,000,000 *l.*, as I have before stated, may be taken as the amount expended annually in the United Kingdom.

2661. The retail price paid for it?—Yes.

2662. Mr. *Gregson.*] A proportion of that 150,000,000 *l.* would be lost by tradesmen who derive their profits on the business, and the materials which they supply?—I do not think there would be any loss so great in that way, because the capital would go into other channels. Of course for a time those parties would be sufferers, just as we suffer from every act that the Legislature passes; it causes a suffering to some persons, more or less.

2663. If you withdrew the demand for 150,000,000 *l.*, of course that would make a great change in the investment of property?—There would be a great change, no doubt, with respect to the large brewers and distillers.

2664. *Chairman.*] Do you suggest to this Committee any amendment of the law with regard to the regulation of public-houses short of the total suppression of the sale of spirituous liquors?—No. I have stated that I do not think that legislation to regulate an evil is ever wise or effective.

2665. You are aware of evils now connected with the conduct of public-houses at present; can you suggest any remedy for these evils?—I believe that they are wholly and entirely evil, and that there should be no such things in existence; that is my opinion.

2666. How would you meet the inconvenience that would occasion to travellers, and those who have not regular homes of their own?—Those people who think they need intoxicating drinks would be inconvenienced; but persons who hold my opinion think that they are injurious in every way, and that no one should take them, except as medicine.

2667. You would open houses of other entertainment?—Yes; where no intoxicating drinks were sold. The legislation in the State of Maine has been followed by several of the Legislatures in five or six other American States, and no real inconvenience has resulted. The people drink water, and tea and coffee.

2668. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Is the proposition which you wish to recommend to this Committee that all places of every description, where intoxicating liquors are sold, should be prohibited by law?—I would lead the public mind to that point as rapidly as possible.

2669. As matters now stand in Ireland, you think it would occasion some dissatisfaction, but no serious resistance?—I can hardly say that no resistance would be offered in Ireland. The people would be astonished if the Legislature were going to prohibit the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors at the present moment, but I believe joy would be the prevailing feeling.

2670. *Chairman.*] With regard to closing the public-houses on Sunday, what is your opinion?—I think that it would have the universal consent of the people, except on the part of the sellers of the intoxicating drinks.

2671. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Although you think it would be a good thing to establish the same rule all the days of the week, you are not prepared to recommend the immediate enforcement of such a rule?—No, I am not.

2672. With regard to Ireland, we understand you to say that you think the people in Ireland are prepared for it, so far as Sunday is concerned?—I believe they are, so far as Sunday is concerned. I have no doubt it would be hailed as a very great boon by a large majority; and in my own private opinion, the other measures would be received as a boon; but I should fear that it would be considered too wild and enthusiastic to recommend it now.

415

Mr. *J. Haughton.*

13 June 1854.

2673. Mr. *Gregson.*] Have you any temperance hotels in Dublin?—Not one of a character suited for genteel travellers. I believe there is one for sailors, and another, a small house, frequented by farmers.

2674. Has your society made any efforts to establish temperance hotels?—No.

2675. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you recommend not only that intoxicating liquors should not be sold in public-houses, but also by wine merchants, and all other merchants?—Certainly. I would put the rich and the poor on the same footing.

2676. Mr. *Gregson.*] You would extinguish them altogether?—I would, if I could.

2677. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Would you prohibit distillation?—Yes.

2678. And brewing?—Yes, and brewing. In a word, I would prohibit the manufacture of intoxicating drinks of every description, except for medicinal and artistic purposes.

2679. And all importation from foreign countries?—Yes.

2680. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Although you might establish this rule by law, of course you must be aware that you must expect that spirituous liquors would be sold contrary to law?—I would not desire to carry any measure which I believed was contrary to popular opinion, and the general opinion of the community. But in this case, although there would no doubt be some dissatisfaction, yet if it were carried, I think the people would go with the law, as in the State of Maine, and in several States of the American Union. The law was passed even in New York lately, and it would be now the law there, but it was vetoed by the governor; and from information that I have had from these places, the people are so pleased at the admirable results of the law, that in several instances where interested parties endeavoured to get the law repealed, it was always carried by increasing majorities. Of course the rich must submit to the inconvenience, if it be considered an inconvenience, not to have intoxicating drinks at their houses, as well as the poor.

2681. Though you might carry with you the majority of the people, there must be expected to be some persons who would prefer to have the enjoyment of intoxicating drinks, and would not they find for themselves some means of supplying their wants in a contraband manner?—It is allowed by the Maine laws; the law does not interfere with individuals in their private houses at all; it is only with the manufacture and sale of the articles that there is any interference. You may import in original packages wine and spirits into your houses as much as you please. We do not contemplate any interference with private rights whatever. We want to put a stop, if possible, to an acknowledged nuisance, that is, the nuisance of drunkenness; which can only be done, I believe, by prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks.

2682. Put the case, for instance, in the state which you have now described, of a small shopkeeper not having the means of importing for his own use, and wanting, wrongly perhaps, to have the indulgence of a certain quantity of intoxicating liquors, do you think that he would not obtain it in some way or other, if he chose to have it; can you expect that the whole body of the people would be of your opinion, as well as the majority?—That is guarded against exactly as other legislative measures are, by punishing the parties for breaking the law.

2683. Mr. *Brown.*] Although, by the Maine law, no liquors can be distilled for the purpose of sale, is there anything in the Maine law to prevent a man distilling on his own premises what he wants?—No.

2684. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Does not the Maine law, therefore, give an advantage to the rich over the poor?—It certainly does not; it does not give any advantage to any man over another. The wealth gives him an advantage. The law is equal which allows every man the same privilege; but then of course a wealthy man will have advantages; he can have his coach and horses, which a poor man cannot, and so on.

2685. *Chairman.*] Is there any other suggestion which you wish to make to the Committee?—I have much more matter on this subject to lay before the Committee, which I had prepared, not knowing the line of examination that might be pursued. All my views tend to the ultimate overthrow of the drinking customs of Society, as I believe such a measure necessary to place the prosperity and happiness of the people on anything like a secure foundation. I beg to lay two more papers before you; one of them is a petition to Parliament from myself, praying that the revenue from intoxicating drinks might be relinquished; the

Mr. *J. Haughton.*
13 June 1854.

other is a letter from Captain Petherick (Manager of Knockmahon Mines), to Mr. Richard Allen, giving a cheering account of the improved condition of many hundred men under his charge, consequent on their adoption of the practice of teetotalism. This letter shows that the working classes have within their reach a large amount of comfort and happiness, if the product of their earnings was directed into proper channels. Speaking of these men, the Report of the Waterford Temperance Society, for 1841, says, "The average amount of wages now paid monthly at these mines is 2,300 *l.* Heretofore the same number of persons at the same sort of work, earned usually only about 1,900 *l.*, out of which it is supposed the commonly spent on intoxicating drinks 500 *l.*" The practice of temperance had thus placed 900 *l.* a month in the hands of these men, to add to the comfort of their families, and to the wealth of the nation.

Mr. *Thomas Ridley Jackson*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *T. R. Jackson.*

2686. *Chairman.*] YOU hold some office, I think, connected with the brewers in Birmingham?—Yes, I am the chairman of their Association; I am also a beerseller and brewer.

2687. You are the chairman of the Retail Brewers' Association in Birmingham?—Yes.

2688. Has that association any evidence to offer to this Committee against the closing of the beerhouses on Sunday?—We were appointed to give evidence on that question.

2689. Do you consider that it would be injurious to them in any way?—To close them entirely it would.

2690. Would they object to closing the public-houses further than they are now closed in the evening?—The retail brewers close their houses at 11 o'clock every night, and consequently they close them at 11 o'clock on Sunday night.

2691. The public-houses can remain open longer at Birmingham, I presume?—The public-houses kept by licensed victuallers are compelled to close from 12 o'clock on Saturday night to half-past 12 on Sunday morning; and they can keep open the whole week besides, if they like.

2692. I believe at Birmingham the public-houses are open for the afternoon and evening, after Divine service?—Yes.

2693. You do not close your house again after three o'clock?—No, not in the borough of Birmingham.

2694. How long do you think the beerhouses could be closed in Birmingham, on Sunday, without injuring the public?—I do not think it would be wise to close them after dinner again till the evening. I am not prepared to say at what hour in the evening they should be closed.

2695. You are speaking now of the interest of the beersellers. They sell a great deal of beer, on Sunday, at Birmingham, and they are apprehensive of being compelled by law to close during that day?—They do not wish their houses to be closed. It would not injure them to a very serious extent. I think they look at it more in a moral point of view. They believe if the houses were closed that the people would be sure to get drink somewhere. It is customary for mechanics to go out somewhere with their wives on Sunday, and when they go out they want some little refreshment. When a man gets out with his wife and family he requires some refreshment before he comes home; and we think, if it was not for that, the men might obtain ale or liquors either in their own houses, or a house might be taken in a yard, if the publican was obliged to close his house on Sunday afternoon. They might make arrangements to take a house under some other name, and evade the law by that means.

2696. You represent the brewers?—Yes, the retail brewers.

2697. So long as the men drink the beer, the brewers would not be injured?—No, not to any great extent.

2698. You are besides pleading for your own interest, and you apprehend that some one else would get the profit if your house was closed?—Partly so; I think it would be injurious to the morals of the people to close the beerhouses entirely on Sunday afternoons; they would resort to some other means to get liquor not so legitimate; I think they would drink more than they do now.

2699. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do the beersellers brew for themselves?—In Birmingham we do.

2700. *Chairman.*]

2700. *Chairman.*] I suppose you represent the beerhouses in the town of Birmingham?—Those in the society, which are about 200; there are nearly 1,100 in the town of Birmingham.

2701. Are those houses very full on Sunday evening?—No; I can speak for myself and others; I know there is not so much ale drunk on Sunday evening in Birmingham as is supposed.

2702. If it is not the habit of the people to drink much beer on Sunday, where would be the injury of closing the beerhouses?—If a man could not go out on a Sunday afternoon with his family, he would be sure to get ale at home, and I think very likely, when he once began to drink at home, he would drink more than he would at a public-house.

2703. You do not think that that would be more injurious to the interests of his family than drinking in a beerhouse?—I think the men would join together, and get ale.

2704. The Committee collect from what you have stated, that the mischief would be that when a man went out into the country he would not find a beershop where he could get beer?—He would get it somewhere, if the houses were closed on Sunday afternoon.

2705. That applies to the beershops in the country?—And equally in the town. The town parties go into the country, and the country parties come into the town by railway.

2706. Mr. *Ker Seymer.*] You think the people would stay at home and drink beer procured in some illegitimate way, without their families?—Yes.

2707. Mr. *Brown.*] Are not you of opinion that the society in the beerhouses very frequently keeps them drinking to a later hour than they would do if they drank with their families?—I think that would be likely if the men only stopped at home; they go out to read the news at the public-houses on Sundays. I think the evidence of our police reports shows that drunkenness is not to any great extent in Birmingham.

2708. *Chairman.*] Have you any other reasons for asking an exception in favour of the beersellers, while other tradesmen are all obliged to close on Sunday?—I think, as regards Sunday afternoons, ale is a beverage which the people in Birmingham, and in the country drink; they require some.

2709. Bread is a necessary which they must consume, but the bakers are obliged to close their shops on Sunday?—It may be that they take ale more as a luxury, but bread can be purchased any hour on Sunday.

2710. But they can lay in their beer on Saturday as they can their loaf?—They do not do so.

2711. Mr. *Brown.*] If they could not get beer on Sunday, would not they probably lay it in on Saturday?—I think it would be drunk before the Sunday very likely.

2712. *Chairman.*] So far as I understand from you, you would not expect any great decrease in the consumption of beer on Sunday, the only difference would be in the place where it was consumed?—I think it would be injurious to them to a great extent.

2713. You think that less beer would be consumed?—Very likely.

2714. And so far it would be injurious to your business as a brewer?—Yes.

2715. Mr. *Sotheron.*] That would be applicable to the beerhouses in the neighbourhood of Birmingham more than to those in the town, where less would be sold?—Yes.

2716. Are those beerhouses immediately in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, to which the working men go, owned by the same parties who own, for the most part, the beerhouses in Birmingham?—Every one who owns a beerhouse in Birmingham has it as his own property, or he rents it.

2717. Do the owners of the public-houses and beerhouses in Birmingham, for the most part, own the beerhouses and public-houses in the country immediately adjoining?—No, I think not.

2718. You appear here on behalf of the retail beerhouses in Birmingham?—Yes.

2719. You have principally spoken to the Committee in favour of those who have beerhouses immediately in the neighbourhood of Birmingham against closing the houses on a Sunday?—It would operate both ways; thousands come by the railway into Birmingham every Sunday, and others go out of the town into the country, so that it would operate upon both parties alike.

2720. *Chairman.*] Is there anything to attract the people to the beerhouses but what you sell?—No.

Mr. T. R. Jackson.

13 June 1854.

2721. Do you generally take in the newspapers?—Yes; I take in two daily papers and three Birmingham papers.

2722. Do the people come on Sunday to read the papers?—I have very few on Sunday myself.

2723. Do the beerhouses have music?—No.

2724. What number of houses do you speak for, or what number of beerhouses in Birmingham are in connexion with this association?—I can speak of the whole of the beerhouses in Birmingham. I do not know one that has music except one near St. George's, where there is an organ playing on Sunday evening.

2725. For what purpose was this association established?—It was established at the time there were common informers, to protect themselves against the vexatious informations of those parties; that having ceased, they have formed a funeral fund, and remained in a body up to the present time. The subscription is small, only 12 *s.* a year. They take all opportunities they can of appealing by petitions and such means to this House for the purpose of getting advantages greater than they have, in an alteration of the licensing system under which they suffer very heavily.

2726. If any man is informed against, does he cease to be a member of the association?—We do not take any one who conducts a house improperly at all; we have not had one who has disgraced himself.

2727. Can you state what number of members there are in the association?—Very nearly 200.

2728. You state that they are constantly complaining to Parliament of the present system?—Yes; the licensing system is the principal thing.

2729. They get their licences much easier than the other public-houses, do they not?—We cannot get licences for spirits.

2730. Do not the people drink much more beer than spirits in Birmingham?—Yes, a great deal.

2731. You want a licence to sell spirits?—Yes.

2732. Do you mean that a man cannot conduct his business respectably unless he can sell spirits?—I have clubs at my house, which subscribe money to the amount of about 27,000 *l.*; and there are about 400 members in them; there is one party in one club for 1,250 *l.*; I have many respectable tradesmen in the evening come to my house, and I cannot offer them anything but ale.

2733. Do they complain of that as an inconvenience?—Very frequently.

2734. For what purpose are you in the habit of petitioning Parliament?—To suggest that an alteration in the licensing system should take place, and that any party who can produce testimonials of good character, and show that he has premises sufficiently commodious and sufficiently rated, should be allowed to sell spirits.

2735. By applying to the Excise?—Yes, by applying to the Excise; I think that would be much better, as there is a great deal of suspicion about the magistrates granting licences sometimes; I do not know that there is anything wrong, but there is suspicion attached to it.

2736. As showing favour?—Yes.

2737. Do you think that there would be more spirits consumed if the people could get licences more easily?—I do not think that more spirits would be consumed, but parties want a change of liquor. A party comes to my house, and he does not like to drink ale continually; he wants a change; I do not think he would drink spirits in addition to ale.

2738. You think that a spirit licence would raise the character of the beershop?—Yes.

2739. It would require more stock, and more capital generally?—Yes.

2740. Would the man be a more respectable tradesman altogether?—Yes.

2741. Would there be fewer public-houses?—I believe the licensed houses would increase for a time.

2742. That is to say, the houses selling spirits would increase?—They might at first.

2743. The poorer sort of beershops would give up?—I think they would; they would either have to do that, or get a greater capital.

2744. Are the poor sort of beershops the places to which the bad characters resort?—I cannot speak of that in Birmingham.

2745. The Birmingham beershops are generally respectable?—So far as our society of 200 are concerned; there used to be 30 or 40 informations in a week; we do not have one information in a week, or one in a month, frequently.

2746. How

2746. How does your association prevent informations being laid; you only protect them when informations are laid against them?—No, we do not.

2747. What does your association do when an information is laid?—We give notice to our solicitor, and he merely conducts the case. If he finds out that they have infringed the law, and that there is a case, he recommends them to plead guilty. The informations against the beersellers are very few indeed.

2748. How long has this association existed?—Ten years.

2749. Has it had a useful effect upon the beersellers?—There are a different class in the beer trade and of licensed victuallers; there are a younger class of men getting in who are more careful in catering for the public.

2750. Two hundred beerhouses is a small proportion of the number at Birmingham?—It is. Many imagine that the society can get what they want, and it will answer their purpose without belonging to the society.

2751. Mr. *Brown.*] Are the wages in Birmingham paid in the public-houses or on the premises of the employers?—They are paid on the premises of the employers as a rule.

2752. On what day?—Many of the large manufacturers pay on Friday night. Mr. Winfield, a manufacturer who is close to my house, pays always on the Friday night; he has 700 or 800 men. Most of the respectable manufacturers in Birmingham pay on Friday afternoon.

2753. Mr. *Packe.*] Is more or less malt liquor drunk on the premises of the beerhouses on Sundays than on weekdays?—I do not think there is as much drunk on the Sunday.

2754. On Sunday evenings are the beerhouses more full than on other days?—They are fuller on Saturday night than any other night. You might go through Birmingham on Sunday night and not hear the slightest noise in the licensed houses or beerhouses; there might be an exception, but you would walk a long way before you found one.

2755. Are not the places of worship open in the evening in Birmingham?—Yes.

2756. Are the beerhouses filled during those hours?—In the winter time perhaps there would be more than in the summer time; the working men are out in the open air more in summer.

2757. You say that the people bring their wives to the beerhouses to obtain their malt liquor?—That is when they go out in the country on Sunday afternoon. It is a universal thing in Birmingham for men to get an early dinner on Sunday for the purpose of going out for a walk. There are places on the Bristol road, and other places where there is any kind of recreation; you may visit those places and see the men with their wives and families. I do not know that I ever saw a case of intoxication among them.

2758. Do the husbands in the town of Birmingham attend the beerhouses and leave their wives and families at home in the evenings in the week?—Yes, they do sometimes.

2759. Do they on Sunday evenings?—Sometimes on Sunday evenings.

2760. Do you think it is advantageous for their wives and families that they should spend their money in the beerhouse instead of taking it home?—I do not think it is advantageous that they should do so; but so far as I know, the beerhouses are quiet on the Sunday evening, and if there was much drinking they would not be quiet.

2761. Although it may be a benefit for yourself and others, and for the sale of liquor, is it better for the parties who have wives and families, to spend their money in your houses, than to take it home?—I do not think you could keep them at home.

2762. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Practically they come to your house without their wives and families; do they ever bring their wives and families?—They do occasionally, but seldom.

2763. *Chairman.*] I presume, from what you state, that the brewers would be more injured than the beersellers, by closing the beerhouses on Sunday, because the consumption of beer would be less if the houses were closed by a general law; all beersellers would be upon the same footing, but still less beer would be consumed altogether, which might be injurious to the brewers?—I think there might be less for a time, but men who want drink will have it by some means or other, and I think very likely their wives and families would suffer more than they do.

2764. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Would it not be a great relief to the keepers of beerhouses and public-houses in Birmingham, if they had their Sundays to themselves?—I have no doubt it would so far as individual comfort is concerned.

Mr. *T. R. Jackson.*
13 June 1854.

2765. Do you consider that in your house, any large proportion of your profits is made on Sunday?—No, it is not; I am peculiarly circumstanced; I have not much out of door custom on Sundays; I do not open my house till six o'clock on the Sunday afternoon.

2766. Balancing in your case the comfort of having Sunday to yourself, against the profit that keeping your houses open may make to you as a tradesmen on the Sunday, would you desire to have your house closed on Sunday, or would you prefer to keep it open?—I close my house till six o'clock in the evening.

2767. You open it after six o'clock?—Yes.

2768. Supposing the custom to be adopted of closing on Sunday, should you rejoice rather than have to go on as you are, and be obliged to attend to your business on Sunday evening?—If the thing were universal over the kingdom, it might be best, but I do not think it is possible to do that.

2769. I understand if it were made general as regards Birmingham, you would be glad of its being so?—No, I should not be pleased at it; it would be more comfortable.

2770. Would you rather have it so, or go on as your are?—Go on as I am.

2771. *Chairman.*] Are you for closing the houses earlier than they are closed by law at present?—Ours are closed at 11 o'clock, but the others can keep open to any time.

2772. You would recommend that the licensed victuallers should be compelled to close at the same hour?—I would; I think that all licensed houses should close every night at 12 o'clock.

2773. Is there any reason why a licensed victualler should have his house open longer than a beerseller?—I do not see it; it is one reason we have of complaint.

2774. Mr. *Packe.*] Have you any difficulty in clearing your house at 11 o'clock?—No, my customers know that it is the rule; I have never any one in five minutes after 11.

2775. *Chairman.*] There are no great brewers in Birmingham, I believe?—No very extensive ones.

2776. Is there much complaint of the beer at Birmingham?—No.

2777. The beersellers are not obliged to take the beer of particular brewers?—No, there are very few out of the 1,100 retail brewers but what brew their own ale.

2778. The greatest number of the beersellers in Birmingham brew their own beer?—Yes.

2779. Mr. *Packe.*] Supposing the company are sober at 11 o'clock, there is no difficulty in clearing your house, because they understand that that is the hour of closing, but after they have been drinking an evening in your house there are some of them not in a sober state; have you any difficulty in removing those persons?—I have kept a house for five years, and I have never had occasion to call in a policeman, or any one to assist me in clearing my house.

2780. *Chairman.*] You have nothing to suggest why the houses should not be closed on Sunday, beyond what you have stated?—No.

Mr. *Joseph Hunter*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Hunter.*

2781. *Chairman.*] ARE you connected with any association in Birmingham?—I am Secretary to the Retail Brewers' Protection Society in Birmingham.

2782. Have you heard what the chairman of that association has stated to the Committee in this room?—I have.

2783. Have you anything to state upon the subject of closing the houses on Sunday. Do you agree with what he has said?—I agree with him to a certain extent, and I disagree with him upon another. I do not agree to the closing all Sunday. I do not agree with him with closing till six on the Sunday evening; my reason is this, I keep an eating-house and sell beer as well, on the Sunday. I do more business from half-past twelve to two o'clock or half-past two on Sunday than I do any two days in the week, by the people coming by train. They come there and have their dinners. It is not in the drinking line that I do it, but it is in the eating line; then the eating sells a little ale. I do not think if the houses were to be closed altogether on the Sunday, it would improve the morals of the working classes one iota.

2784. You keep an eating-house, not a beershop?—I keep an eating-house and a beershop.

2785. You find you sell a great deal of beer on Sunday, and for that reason you wish it not to be prohibited?—The best part I sell is from dinner time, and

again

again from seven o'clock till about ten. I have been a beerhouse-keeper for 22 years; I have never been before the magistrates once.

2786. If the house were open for two hours in the day on Sunday, that would meet the wants of your customers, as far as dinner would go?—I open at half-past twelve till three; the Act of Parliament says we shall close at three, but I never do close, nor do the licensed victuallers nor the beersellers in Birmingham.

2787. Has there never been any information against you for not closing?—Not on Sunday.

2788. You get good custom by not closing?—You can come into my house 50 times from three to five, and not find a customer in; parties will come down for teas, and go on till about nine.

2789. It is after tea they want beer again?—Decidedly.

2790. Have you no reason to give against closing the houses on Sunday, but that it would be injurious to the business you conduct?—Yes; I think it would have a wonderful effect if the trade was thrown open, and power taken decidedly out of the hands of the magistrates.

2791. You have not any public ground for not closing your house on Sunday?—Only from what I have stated, parties coming from what we call the black countries to Birmingham; people go into the black country, and if they were not to be accommodated at some places to have refreshment, the people would stop at home; the poor man ought to have his glass of ale and his pipe of tobacco as well as the rich man his cigar and glass of wine; that is my opinion.

2792. Is it your opinion that it would put the poorer class to much inconvenience; would they make much complaint if the public-houses were closed on Sunday?—Yes, it would stop them, and if they cannot get it by hook they will by crook, somehow.

2793. Mr. *Packe.*] Have you much business in selling eatables and beer out of your house at dinner for the neighbourhood?—Not on weekdays or on Sundays; the neighbours do not come; they have generally got a hot dinner on Sunday.

2794. Out of your house have you much business in the sale of malt liquor and cooked meat?—No; my house is exactly opposite the prison in Moor-street; it is a locality where there is no out-door custom; mine is all chance custom.

2795. *Chairman.*] Your house is a house for dinners?—Yes. I have not a dozen to say regular customers belonging to the house from one week's end to the other, not belonging to the town; parties call casually going by; it would be a serious injury to me, and not to me only, but to the trade generally, if it was closed all day Sunday; and likewise injurious to the licensed victuallers.

2796. As it is, do not bakers and butchers lose a day out of seven?—I should say, if you are to close one, you ought to close them all.

2797. Mr. *W. Brown.*] They are all closed on Sunday?—Not in Birmingham.

2798. Mr. *Gregson.*] Are they open in Birmingham?—I should be very sorry to see them closed.

2799. The tradesmen generally are closed?—The tradesmen generally are; but I mean the bakers; it is better to keep one man at home to bake for 100 families to let them go to church as they think proper.

2800. Mr. *W. Brown.*] Are the fishmongers and greengrocers open too?—The fishmongers are open to a certain hour, and send out their orders.

2801. *Chairman.*] They are closed for the rest of the day, I think?—Yes.

2802. Would you object to closing your place of entertainment for the rest of the day on Sunday?—We are not open in the morning; we close every night at 11 o'clock; when we close at 11 o'clock on Saturday night we are not allowed again to open till half-past 12; the licensed victuallers keep open till 12 on that night; and every other night, of course, they keep open as they think proper, as long as they keep peaceable and in good order.

2803. Do you find much inconvenience from not being able to sell spirits as well as beer?—I do, especially at the sessions time.

2804. You have more custom at the sessions time?—Yes; the witnesses and jurymen, and one thing or other.

2805. Mr. *Packe.*] You are near the courts?—I am exactly opposite; I have never applied for a license but once, and I was so disgusted that I determined I never would apply any more.

2806. Sir *J. Pakington.*] You stated an opinion just now, that beerhouses and public-houses ought to be kept open because you think the working classes would get beer some way or other upon the Sunday?—I do say so.

Mr. *J. Hunter.*

13 June 1854.

2807. Is it at all the habit of the artisans and working classes of Birmingham to buy their beer in casks from the brewer, so as to have a supply to last the week, or several days?—Very few do that.

2808. Is there any reason why they should not do it?—Not that I am aware of.

2809. If they were induced to do so, as the general habit of the town, do you think they would get their beer much cheaper?—I do not think that is a fair question; you want to know the profits, I presume.

2810. You said they would get beer by hook or by crook?—Yes.

2811. Do not you think that even if the working man bought his beer at the beerhouse, so as to keep up your profits, he might buy his beer on Saturday, take a bottle away, enough for his Sunday's consumption, and so supply himself without going to the public-house on Sunday?—He could do so.

2812. Would you call that by hook or by crook?—No, that would be straightforward dealing; he would buy that at a time when the law allowed him to do so, and would not be setting the law at defiance.

2813. That would not injure your profits?—No. I tell you what it would do for those mechanics; the beer would not be so good if put into a bottle, unless it was put into cold water all night; it naturally would heat in the bottles, unless it was porter.

2814. Do you think it might be better for the working classes, and also for their wives and families, without doing any harm to you as a beer seller, if they were to adopt that practice of buying beer on Saturday night for Sunday's consumption, so that you might go and have a day's leisure?—It would not hurt the beersellers in that respect, to any great extent; but, as I said before, the drink would not be so good for the consumer.

2815. It would be flat, do you mean?—It would be flat and warm, and not worth drinking.

2816. It being warm would depend upon where they keep it?—I said before they must keep it in a place where it would keep cold.

2817. Mr. *Gregson.*] They must put it into water?—It would keep cold. The best thing for the improvement of the morals of the working classes was the Sabbath-day Bill, in several instances.

2818. Sir *J. Pakington.*] What do you mean by the Sabbath-day Bill?—Making the licensed victuallers close on the Saturday night, and not open till half-past twelve on the Sunday.

2819. *Chairman.*] You are of opinion that you must stop at half-past twelve, and not close them further?—I would close them at twelve every night in the week at the latest, except for houses in the immediate locality of a railway.

2820. Mr. *Packe.*] You are speaking now of the licensed houses?—Yes; I would close every house at twelve.

2821. *Chairman.*] They are closed on Sunday?—Till half-past twelve.

2822. Have you heard that, before that Bill was passed, persons urged the same objection to it which you have stated to-day for closing them, that a great number of people would want to consume beer and spirits at that hour?—When I first entered the business I was allowed to open at four on Sunday morning, and I kept open till ten in the morning, and that caused a great deal of drunkenness.

2823. There was a great deal of custom then?—There was a great deal of drunkenness, I must acknowledge, at that time. Where you saw 20 drunken men at that time you do not see one now at present in Birmingham.

2824. Because the houses are closed?—The working classes of society have so much improved in their morals, they are not so much after drink as they used to be; nothing of the sort; they are more for the clubs.

2825. Does that diminish your profits?—Yes, of course it does.

2826. If the houses were closed for the rest of Sunday, there would be some diminution of your profit; the people would be less drunken, and the morals of the people would perhaps improve?—I do not see that; the march of intellect improves the morals of the people.

2827. You have no doubt that closing on Sunday has diminished drunkenness?—It has worked a miracle to a very great extent. You do not see one drunken man on Sunday out of 20 that there used to be in Birmingham.

2828. You have not any other objections to closing the houses on Sunday, except those you have stated; you think it would be inconvenient to travellers?—And to the inhabitants of Birmingham likewise.

2829. Do not you think it would be a blessing even to a beerseller to have his Sunday to himself?—No.

2830. Not on Sunday?—I could not keep my wife and family; I have seven children.

2831. Sir *J. Pakington.*] How do other tradesmen manage to keep their wives and families who open six days out of seven?—They have greater profits than what we have at the present time. Look at the price of every article we consume, and look at this beautiful 1 *s.* 3 *d.* put on lately.

2832. *Chairman.*] Have you any doubt that Birmingham is extremely well off; has not Birmingham been better off this last three years than it was previously?—I do not believe any such thing.

2833. Is not the trade good at Birmingham?—Some part of it; not all of it.

2834. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Is your house near one of the principal railroad stations?—No.

2835. How do the excursionists, who come in from the country on Sundays, come so much to your house?—Through Duddeston-row, which they come up to come into the Bull-ring; they come along the Duddeston-row, and come down Moor-street, and then pass my house to go into the Bull-ring.

2836. Your house is well situated for the reception of strangers who come to Birmingham?—I have good accommodation for any gentleman who thinks proper to honour me with his company.

2837. *Chairman.*] Have you any other evidence you wish to give?—Only I should like for us to be placed upon the same footing as other publicans with a spirit license. I think that the beersellers ought to be allowed to sell wines and spirits under certain restrictions on rentals, and those licenses ought to be granted by the Excise.

2838. You think there should be a qualification for a man to sell intoxicating liquor?—Certainly, as to character, and so on.

2839. Do you think he ought to lose his license if he breaks the law?—Not the first time.

2840. Sir *J. Pakington.*] What restrictions do you allude to which you would impose upon the retail brewers and the seller of wines and spirits?—As to the rental of the houses keeping a well and good conducted orderly house.

2841. You would suggest no restrictions upon the sale, but only restrictions upon the power to open a house?—He should have the same power to sell as the licensed victualler.

2842. Would you desire to see the rating qualification raised above what it now is?—Providing it did not disturb those that are now in business; I think it would be very unfair to raise the rating higher than it is at the present moment, because it would be in a manner robbing those that are in business already; I am rated high enough; therefore they would not rob me in that way.

2843. You think if the men in business were not disturbed, the fewer new persons who entered the business the better?—Hereafter, let those enter that thought proper.

2844. The rating required by law in Birmingham is 15 *l.*?—Yes, for beerhouses,

2845. Is that strictly adhered to?—It is.

2846. It is not evaded?—It is not, that I am aware of.

2847. *Chairman.*] You do not know that it is not evaded, do you?—I know almost every house there is in Birmingham.

2848. Does not this evasion take place, that two houses are put together, when the overseers examine the nature of the premises for the purpose of certifying that they are of a certain value, and when they get the license those houses are severed, and it is a house of a very inferior kind that opens the beershop?—That has been done.

2849. Sir *J. Pakington.*] It has not often been done?—I do not think there is a case of that kind in Birmingham.

2850. If a house not fairly rated at 15 *l.* were occupied as a beerhouse in Birmingham, you would be sure to know it?—I think I should.

2851. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you know an instance of a person applying to the overseer to raise the rating of the house, for the purpose of opening a beerhouse?—Not that I am aware of. They generally go down to the surveyor, if they have made any alteration in the houses; they apply to the surveyor to have them fresh assessed. That is the way it is done; and then he gives his assessment to the overseer.

Mr. *J. Hunter.*

13 June 1854.

2852. Do you know of any application being made upon a low-rated house, to have it assessed higher, to 15*l.*, for the purpose of opening a beerhouse?—I have not lately; not since the last assessment. I have heard of them before; there has been a fresh assessment within this last two years all through Birmingham.

2853. Mr. *Gregson.*] You would raise the rating assessment to all new applicants?—I would leave it in the hands of the Legislature.

2854. You said if the houses were closed on Sunday, the people would get drink by hook or by crook; what did you mean by that?—It is a saying in Birmingham, meaning either one way or the other.

2855. If the houses were closed, how would they get beer?—There is sure to be somebody to sell it. If I would not, perhaps my neighbour would; perhaps my neighbour would not, and perhaps I would if I had the chance.

2856. Mr. *Packe.*] What would be the effect of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquor in the town of Birmingham?—It would make us more eager to sell it.

2857. Would the people be satisfied?—No. If you take a child into a garden and tell him not to take a gooseberry off a particular tree, the more he desires to do so; the more you keep a man from drink, the more he hankers after it.

Mr. *Henry Wren*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *H. Wren.*

2858. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Superintendent of Police?—Yes, of the County Constabulary.

2859. Where at?—At Merthyr Tydvil.

2860. You have been in communication with Mr. Fowler, I believe, the stipendiary magistrate there?—I have.

2861. Do you know what the feelings of the people there are about closing public-houses on Sunday?—Yes, I do.

2862. Is it desired by the people in general at Merthyr Tydvil?—I think so.

2863. What people do you refer to?—The working classes. The great body of the population are working classes; the working and middle class. We have no other class in that neighbourhood.

2864. They use the beerhouses a good deal?—Yes.

2865. There is a great deal of drinking?—Yes.

2866. Chiefly on Sunday?—Not chiefly on Sunday; on Saturday nights and Sunday. There is a great deal of drinking on Sunday.

2867. They frequent the houses on Sunday?—They do. It is the practice in Merthyr to frequent the chapels, and after the chapels are over they resort to the public-houses.

2868. Dissenting meeting-houses?—Yes; I have estimated, from observation, that there is about an average of 18 persons in each beerhouse, from 8 o'clock on Sunday evening till 11.

2869. What is the number of beerhouses in Merthyr Tydvil?—Two hundred and ninety-eight in the district I have to superintend.

2870. What is the number of licensed victuallers' houses?—Two hundred and eight.

2871. Have you made special observation as to the number of people in the houses on Sunday nights?—I have.

2872. You put that, upon the average, at 18 in each?—The average was 22 in the licensed victuallers' houses.

2873. What is the population of Merthyr Tydvil?—The population of Merthyr is over 60,000, and the population of the district immediately around cannot be far short of 100,000 concentrated in a few miles of space.

2874. With those habits which you have described, how did you come to the conclusion, that the people would not object to the public-houses being closed on Sunday?—A petition has been numerously signed, not only by working men, but the whole of the publicans in the neighbourhood, who signed, with one exception.

2875. Did the beershop-keepers also sign?—Yes.

2876. What is the meaning of their wishing to have them closed?—They give a variety of reasons, many of which I have in my possession, that were given to the gentleman who went round with the petition.

2877. They do not think they would lose much if it was the general law?—If it was general, they would prefer it.

2878. Is that with the view to obviate any evil which they experience in the houses

425

Mr. *H. Wren.*

13 June 1854.

houses on Sunday?—In order that they may obtain rest as other tradesmen, that appears to be the desire.

2879. Has there been any public meeting held upon the subject?—No.

2880. You speak from personal communication with those people?—Yes.

2881. Have they signed the petition?—They have wholly, I believe, with one exception.

2882. Has it been presented?—I think it has by the Honourable Member, Mr. Bruce.

2883. Do you know anything of the opinions of the more respectable inhabitants generally?—Yes, and of the working men themselves.

2884. Is there any great evil from the houses being open on Sunday night, when the people might be in better places?—There is a great deal of drunkenness.

2885. And riot?—Not of late years; I have had 13 years' experience, and rioting has decreased very much on Sunday.

2886. It is within that time the police have been established; how many men have you?—I have about 20 men.

2887. Do the public-houses give more employment to the policemen in watching them?—Yes; the number of convictions last year were 40 licensed victuallers convicted, and 112 beerhouses.

2888. Convicted of what?—Offences against the licenses.

2889. Chiefly of what offence?—Chiefly the Sunday morning offence; offences against the Act of Parliament which came into operation in 1848 for closing from Saturday night to Sunday morning.

2890. Do you attend the magistrates who give the licenses?—I do.

2891. Do you report upon those convictions?—I do.

2892. Do they lose their licenses?—Yes, they do after several convictions.

2893. Is the license taken away from the publican?—Yes.

2894. Have you known such cases?—I have known the license taken away, and several instances of suspension.

2895. That is not a suspension of the licenses, but an adjourned consideration of the subject?—Yes; it is the suspension of the license.

2896. Do you mean that the house is shut up for a time?—The licensing day being held several days before the time they expire, it does not have that effect.

2897. What penalty is generally imposed upon the houses when they break the law?—Our magistrates inflict a nominal penalty for the first offence, and the full penalty for the second.

2898. Forty shillings?—Forty shillings in some cases, and 5 *l.* in others.

2899. Is it always paid?—Yes, it is always paid.

2900. Mr. *Brown.*] The calculation I have made, taking 298 beerhouses, and 18 being in at one time, and 208 licensed houses, makes 6,244 in at one time on Sunday; how often will those be renewed or changed?—They will scarcely be renewed at all; they would stay there.

2901. *Chairman.*] At what o'clock are those houses open in the afternoon on Sunday?—From half-past 12, after the termination of morning service; they close again when the afternoon service is held at three; they open again at half-past four, and continue till 11; that is, the beershops.

2902. So that the man who keeps the house may go to church if he chooses?—Yes.

2903. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Have you heard an opinion expressed by the publicans and beersellers, that if the rule for closing on Sunday was made general, the working classes would buy beer beforehand, so that, practically, they would gain the leisure of Sunday without any great diminution of their profits?—Yes, I have.

2904. Do you believe, practically, that the people would buy their beer beforehand?—I do not think they would; there seems to be an opinion that they should be open for an hour in the middle of the day on Sunday.

2905. In that event, do you think people would buy their beer beforehand on Saturday?—I think a great number would.

2906. Do many of the working classes at Merthyr Tydvil buy beer at first hand from the brewers?—Very few working men have beer in their houses; they frequent the public-houses.

2907. They do not give beer to their families?—Very little.

2908. The men are in the receipt of high wages, and are generally well off?—Some are getting from 1 *l.* a week wages up to 3 *l.*, 4 *l.*, and 5 *l.*; some skilled artisans are getting 5 *l.* a week, I have no doubt.

Mr. H. Wren.

13 June 1854.

2909. I observe from a statement you made in a previous part of your examination, that the proportion of convictions of beerhouses is very much larger than the convictions of the licensed victuallers?—Yes.

2910. Are the beershops much complained of at Merthyr Tydvil?—They are very much.

2911. Is it considered that they are conducted in a less respectable manner than the licensed victuallers' houses?—Yes; one very great reason is that there are 159 of these 298 beerhouse-keepers, who hold some employment in the iron works; many of them are petty agents, and they have a very great influence in attracting workpeople to come to their houses to drink, and their wish, however slightly expressed, would induce the workmen to come to their houses.

2912. Is it found practically that bad characters of the neighbourhood resort more to the beerhouses than they do to the licensed victuallers?—No doubt; I know they do in fact.

2913. Is it your opinion, holding the high position which you do in the police, that crimes are often concocted at these beerhouses; that men are led into criminal courses frequenting those beerhouses?—I have no doubt the great bulk of crime originates in the beerhouses.

2914. Is that founded upon your actual observation?—Upon my actual observation and experience.

2915. *Chairman.*] In the low description of houses in the neighbourhood of Merthyr Tydvil?—Yes.

2916. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Is the law with regard to the amount of rating required for keeping a beerhouse strictly adhered to at Merthyr Tydvil?—It is not. I heard a question put to another witness as to an application, on the part of a beershop-keeper, to the valuers, to rate a house to 15 *l.*, which was not of that value. I believe there are many such cases.

2917. The population is such as to make the required rating 15 *l.*?—Yes.

2918. It is often evaded?—Yes.

2919. Are there at this moment any considerable proportion of the 298 beerhouses which are not worth the amount required by law?—I should think there are.

2920. Can you at all tell the Committee what proportion?—No, I really cannot; a large proportion.

2921. Who do you blame for those evasions, the overseers or the Excise; who is in fault?—I think the fault is with both.

2922. *Chairman.*] Do the overseers give certificates?—Yes.

2923. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Do the overseers give erroneous certificates?—It is the result of carelessness.

2924. Is it the result of carelessness, or of collusion?—I think carelessness more than collusion.

2925. Mr. *Packe.*] Is beer sold to any great extent on Sunday, at Merthyr Tydvil, in the beerhouses?—It is; the Welsh people drink very little in their own homes.

2926. Mr. *Brown.*] Would any practical good result, if a person was confined to that business; that he should not attend to any other business?—I have frequently heard it expressed by working men at Merthyr Tydvil; they have gone out on Sunday without any money in their pockets, in order that they might not drink; and meeting with a beerhouse-keeper, who has some kind of security against these men, they give him trust for drink.

2927. *Chairman.*] They are the agents, who pay the wages, and they induce the men to come into their houses and give them drink, because they are certain of being repaid?—They have a better chance of being paid.

2928. If the houses were all upon the same footing, the beerhouses and the licensed victuallers' houses, is it not likely that fewer of those public-houses kept by employers or agents would then exist than at present?—I think so.

2929. Is there any advantage in the difference in the law made between licensed victuallers' houses and beerhouses; is there any object attained by having those two kinds of public-houses?—I should say not.

2930. You would have a uniform system?—Yes; at present any man, of any kind of character, who can get a certificate signed, is able to obtain a license for a beershop.

2931. What is the check upon either publicans or beersellers; is it not the vigilance of the police and the fear of being informed against?—It is. The convictions do not represent the offences committed by publicans at Merthyr Tydvil, inasmuch

inasmuch as every inducement is held out by them to the police, in the shape of bribes, to influence them from laying informations.

2932. Is it the distinct duty of the policeman to inspect those houses?—No; it is a part of his general duty.

2933. He does not act particularly as an inspector of public-houses; he is not always on the look-out for an offence?—No. If a man is placed upon a beat he has to report upon the beerhouses that are on his beat.

2934. Is he forbidden to go into a public-house unless he hears a disturbance?—Yes.

2935. He is forbidden, unless he is called in to take a charge?—It is part of his duty to see that they are complying with the law.

2936. Is it a part of the policeman's duty at all times to see that the public-houses are conducted according to law?—Not when they are opened within the legal hours.

2937. It is only your duty when you suspect persons are in the house when those houses ought to be closed, that you have a right to enter?—Yes; or if there is any disturbance, or any bad characters frequenting the house.

2938. Who are the persons who inform against the publicans generally?—The police. I am the person who lays all the informations; the reports of the subordinate officers are laid before me, and I, in my discretion, lay the informations.

2939. Is there anything that determines what cases you notice out of those which are reported to you?—I notice all that are capable of proof, unless they are very frivolous; I never lay frivolous or vexatious informations. If there is a decided breach of the law, I always lay an information.

2940. Have you any suggestion to make, with a view to improve the conduct of those houses, and with a view to make them comply more strictly with the law than they do now; do you think it should be the particular duty of somebody connected with the police, or that there should be an inspector, specially appointed, to superintend those houses?—Yes, I think there ought.

2941. You attach more importance to the subsequent control and supervision than you do to the consideration of the man's character before he gets his license?—Yes.

2942. You think it would tend to improve the character of the publican if he were allowed to carry on the publican's business, so that he could always sell both spirits and ale?—I think the result of the convictions shows that there are less convictions against licensed victuallers than against beersellers, in proportion to their number. I think it shows that the public-houses are more respectably conducted; I know, as far as drawing a comparison between them in Merthyr Tydvil, the licensed victuallers are a more respectable class of men than the beersellers.

2943. Do you infer that that is because they are obliged to employ more capital in their business?—I think the magistrates exercise more control over the publicans.

2944. You can inform against a beerseller for a violation of the law, can you not?—Yes; but in the case of a publican, in addition to the fear of a conviction, there is a consideration of the case when he applies for his license, or the renewal of his certificate.

2945. Do you know any cases in which men have been deprived of their licenses?—I do.

2946. Did you ever know half-a-dozen cases?—Not so many as that.

2947. The license is adjourned sometimes?—Yes; there is generally an adjournment of the license till the next meeting; it is refused on the first day, and it is considered in fact that it is suspended from that day.

2948. Mr. *Packe.*] Are the Committee to gather from you that houses ought not to be licensed by the Excise to sell beer?—I do not go so far as to do away with beershops. I only give the result of my own experience. I say that the licensed victuallers' houses are better conducted and are kept by a better class of men, because the magistrates exercise more control over them. If a man produces the proper form, he has no trouble whatever in getting a beer license.

2949. You think that a house licensed by the magistrates, where they take pains to inquire into the character of the party, is better conducted than one whose license has been obtained from the Excise for the sale of beer?—I am sure of it; the proprietor sets more value upon his license, and is more cautious.

2950. Mr. *Brown.*] If all persons were compelled, in taking out a license, to pay more money for their licenses, and were obliged to give two good securities for

Mr. H. Wren.

13 June 1854.

the proper conduct of their houses, would not those sureties be much more likely to know the character of the persons for whom they become security than the magistrates could by possibility?—Yes; hitherto, in our district, a beerhouse-keeper gets two persons to be security; lately we have have proceeded against the securities.

2951. To what extent do the beerhouse-keepers in your district give security?—I do not know to what extent, but they do give security; and within the last week, in default of the payment of a fine inflicted upon a beerhouse-keeper, we have proceeded against his surety.

2952. *Chairman.*] I think you said just now that the convictions offered no complete evidence of the number of offences committed?—No; I know that every police constable is open to a great deal of temptation from publicans, and I have no doubt many of them fall into it.

2953. The publican has ready means of influencing any of these persons?—Yes, by offering drink or money; I know from my own experience that presents of every description are perpetually offered to me by both publicans and beerhouse-keepers.

2954. The publicans are more able to do so than the beerhouse-keepers?—Yes.

2955. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Do not you think that it would be desirable to have a person in a higher station than an ordinary police constable to inspect these houses?—No doubt, but he would not be sufficient in himself; I could not attend to the inspection of these houses; they extend over a great space.

2956. Do not you think that two or three persons having nothing to do, but to attend to that duty, could efficiently perform it?—They must be respectable men, placed on a salary which would put them above temptation.

2957. Mr. *Packe.*] I understand you to say that it would be better to have all the houses equally licensed to sell beer, and that there should be a uniform system for the sale of beer and spirits?—I think the houses would be kept by a better class of persons.

2958. If the beerhouses at present are not so well conducted as the licensed victuallers' houses, would they be better conducted if they were licensed in the same way by the Excise, to sell spirits as well as beer?—I think they should not be licensed by the Excise.

2959. You would have them all licensed by the magistrates?—Yes.

2960. In fact you would do away with the present beerhouses, and have them all licensed houses; licensed by the magistrates?—I think a superior class of men would be brought into the trade by that means.

2961. *Chairman.*] The beerhouses are obliged to be closed earlier than the licensed victuallers' houses, therefore it is likely that they would offend oftener actually than the publican?—They are obliged to close at 11 at night. There is the same restriction with them as with respect to the licensed victuallers on Sunday, but the principal offences are Sunday offences.

2962. Do you charge them with any other offences, such as playing cards?—Gambling, keeping open late at night, and open on the Sunday afternoon, during Divine service, and permitting persons of bad character to assemble in their houses.

2963. Is that done more in the beerhouses than in the licensed victuallers' houses?—Yes; considerably more.

2964. What sort of attractions do they get in those houses to tempt the people; is playing carried to a large extent?—No; the Welsh are particularly fond of music; there is harp playing, and dancing and singing, in a great many beerhouses in Merthyr Tydvil.

2965. Are the beerhouses used for immoral purposes at Merthyr Tydvil?—No, I think not; to a very small extent.

2966. Mr. *Packe.*] Are the policemen asked to come into the houses at night to clear them at the time of closing?—Yes.

2967. Is that a matter of frequent occurrence?—Yes.

2968. *Chairman.*] Do you find any interference from the great people to save publicans from losing their licenses?—Interested persons interfere, no doubt.

2969. I presume those houses sometimes belong to people other than the occupiers?—Yes, they belong to brewers, a great many of them, in Merthyr Tydvil.

2970. Is there sometimes on licensing day a little interference in favour of persons who are to get the houses licensed?—Yes.

425

Mr. *H. Wren.*

13 June 1854.

2971. Mr. *Packe.*] Are the houses which belong to the brewers the best conducted?—No, I think not; I do not interfere there.

2972. *Chairman.*] You do not make any suggestion yourself for an amendment of the present law?—I have no particular wish to make any suggestion.

2973. There is nothing which you would be led to recommend, from any experience that you have had, beyond that of closing on Sunday; you recommend that yourself, do you not?—I should keep them open one or two hours in the middle of the day.

2974. From one to three?—Yes; on Sunday evenings they ought to be closed.

2975. You think there would be no inconvenience in that case?—I feel confident that there would not.

2976. You do not believe there would be any extensive evasions of the law in consequence?—I do not; a great deal of the drinking is from working men being induced by some interested persons to frequent the beerhouses.

2977. Mr. *Packe.*] Are you acquainted with any other large towns besides Merthyr Tydvil?—Yes.

2978. Do you consider that 298 beerhouses, and 208 public-houses, for a population of 60,000, is not an unusually large number?—I mean the district surrounding Merthyr Tydvil, over which I have the supervision. There are a great number of iron-works.

2979. Is that the district within which the 60,000 people reside?—That district contains a population of nearly 90,000.

2980. Over which those beerhouses and public-houses are scattered?—Yes.

2981. Is the drunkenness of the people at Merthyr Tydvil that which gives you most occupation?—Yes, particularly on Saturday nights.

2982. In other respects, except drunkenness and rioting, they are an innocent population?—Very.

2983. Do not you think that 298 beershops is a large number for the population at Merthyr Tydvil?—I do.

2984. *Chairman.*] You account for that by their being kept by people who have other things to do?—Yes.

2985. Are there not a great number of religious meeting-houses?—Yes; it is he custom of the Welsh on Sunday to go from those places to the public-houses.

2986. Where would they go if the houses were closed on Sunday?—That is the great want at Merthyr Tydvil. I have been suggesting to the Temperance Society to establish some innocent means of recreation for the working people.

2987. You have no doubt that they would resort to such places immediately?—I have not the least doubt; they always resort to any public entertainment which is given, and such entertainments are always successful when they come to Merthyr. The Welsh are very fond of music.

2988. Are the people at all improving at Merthyr?—Yes.

2989. Has not a good deal been done for their education?—At one of the works Lady Guest has established a play-ground and reading-rooms, which has done an immense deal of good, and attracted a great many men, where they would otherwise have been in the beerhouses. Hundreds are to be seen at games upon the ground which she has appropriated for that purpose.

2990. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is there any public park at Merthyr?—No.

2991. Do you recommend that the beerhouses and the public-houses should be put upon the same system of licensing?—I think they would be kept by a better class of person. I think experience shows that the licensed victuallers conduct their houses more respectably.

2992. Would you put them all under a magistrates' license?—I think experience shows that that is the best, in our neighbourhood, at all events: those that are under the magistrates, and under their surveillance, are better conducted.

2993. Mr. *Brown.*] If they had to pay a high price for a license, would not that be a security for their good conduct, if the license was taken away, and they lost their money?—That would exercise a check upon them, no doubt.

2994. *Chairman.*] When you say that the system of magistrates giving licenses now is better than the beerhouse licensing, do you only mean that there should be an active and disinterested control over those houses by authorities who should be competent to grant licences to persons qualified to receive them, and who could

Mr. *H. Wren.*

13 June 1854.

be trusted fearlessly to withdraw them, or to apply the law in case of offence committed?—Yes.

2995. You would have special and proper superintendence over those houses?—No doubt.

Mr. *John Everett*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Everett.*

2996. *Chairman.*] DO you reside at Luton?—Yes.

2997. Are you engaged in any manufacture there?—Yes.

2998. What manufacture?—Straw goods of all kinds.

2999. Do you employ a great number of people?—Yes; both at Luton and Dunstable, which towns nearly adjoin.

3000. You have been there some time?—Yes, some years.

3001. Do you find that great evils attend the resort of the people to beerhouses and public-houses on Sunday?—Very painful occurrences are always arising from those Sabbath evening dissipations.

3002. It is chiefly on Sunday that you observe so much evil from the beerhouses being open?—Yes.

3003. Do you find a difference in that respect in the people you employ?—All the working classes resort to those places.

3004. Do you find that demoralizes them?—Very much; there is no possibility of escape from it.

3005. Is there a large number of those houses in proportion to the population?—We have 97 public-houses to a population of from 12,000 to 15,000; it was 12,000, I think, at the census, and we have increased at a very large ratio. I judge that we have about 15,000 at the present time.

3006. You think it would be a great advantage to the people themselves if the houses could be closed on Sunday evening?—Most undoubtedly. I have taken the opinion of my neighbours, clergymen, ministers, and bankers, and my brother merchants, and indeed a number of the leading men of the place, and we are all unanimously of opinion that it would be a great advantage to the working classes.

3007. How would it be as to convenience to them?—I have been intimately associated with the working classes, as a leader in their moral reforms, and endeavouring by every possible means to induce them to adopt habits of thriftiness and sobriety. I know their mind upon the subject, because I meet them in large masses more than any other persons in the place. I have tested their mind upon that subject, and I am quite persuaded that the great majority would be thankful, and consider it the greatest boon which this House could give in suspending this kind of traffic on the Lord's day.

3008. What is the reason they do not abstain themselves from those houses?—The fact is, the great majority of the thinking part of them are not much affected; the population prejudicially affected by inducements held out to drink, is the class of young persons; it is the young people they tell upon more particularly.

3009. What inducements, other than drink, are given at these houses?—Various kinds of music, and all sorts of things.

3010. Do you allude to both classes of houses?—Yes; it applies more particularly to the lower order of houses; in fact, the beerhouses in our town and the neighbourhood are a pest to the district.

3011. From their congregating people of bad character?—Yes; they are the general receptacles of all that is bad.

3012. How do you account for that; have you any police at Luton?—We have a police force, but they baffle all the endeavours of the police.

3013. You do not mean that these people violate the law; but from the existence of these houses, collecting a large number of persons, the mischief is done?—Yes.

3014. You do not say that they are worse conducted than other houses where intoxicating liquors are sold?—I should be inclined to think that they are worse conducted, and taken up by a lower class of persons.

3015. Do you refer much of this mischief to their being open on Sunday night?—Yes, a great deal of it.

3016. That is because the people have leisure on that night, and it affords an opportunity for them to indulge?—Yes.

3017. When are their wages paid at Luton?—Usually on Friday now; we had a public demonstration about it. In connexion with the temperance society, we have

have Saturday-evening meetings, where the people can have rational enjoyment, conversations, and lectures.

3018. Do you find the people attend them pretty well?—Yes, our room is always crowded.

3019. So that there is no indisposition on the part of the people to attend those places if they have not a temptation to drink?—Not the slightest.

3020. You think it would not be a matter of complaint on the Sunday if the houses were closed?—I do not think there are two publicans in Luton who would object to sign a petition to have the houses closed on Sunday. I do not think the working people would think it any deprivation.

3021. Although the publicans would agree to it, with the exception of two, the houses are not closed on the Sunday?—I believe every publican in the town, with one or two exceptions, would not object to it.

3022. Do you find the habits of drinking interfere with your efforts for the improvement of the people?—Very much; it is a great barrier; if we can get a man away from the habits of the class we can improve him, but as long as he retains his hold upon drink, it is useless to try to do so.

3023. You have been doing something at Luton in the way of improvement, have you not?—Yes; always in connexion with total abstinence.

3024. What is the case with the people under you?—A great number of my employees are abstainers.

3025. Do you mean total abstainers?—Yes, the great part of them, from influence not compulsion; every person about my establishment is free to do as he pleases. I use all the moral suasion I can to induce them to adopt habits of saving, and so on. I have not the least doubt that I could by an effort obtain 5,000 signatures to a petition to this Committee, for putting down or closing beerhouses on the Sabbath, without the slightest influence, further than moral suasion, by simply asking, "Do you wish it?"

3026. Is there a great deal of immorality in Luton, to which the beerhouses are made subservient?—I am sure I can hardly say; as an employer, these things are kept from me.

3027. Do you believe that the beerhouses are used for immoral purposes?—They have a tendency to promote that sort of thing.

3028. Do you find that there is much drinking among the women?—They do begin to drink.

3029. At an early age?—Yes, that is the most painful aspect in our population; we are making very extraordinary efforts to neutralise that tendency.

3030. You find that the people drink spirits more than beer?—Yes; we have lately had two or three gin palaces on a small scale opened; it is quite painful to see the characters that resort there, as I have seen them myself frequently.

3031. Has there been any representation made to your bench of magistrates not to license houses which are kept in that style?—Yes; our magistrates are quite in sympathy with my views.

3032. Cannot they intimate to the publicans that they must have their houses kept according to the original object for which public-houses were allowed?—Yes; they are very strict indeed.

3033. Those gin palaces do not come within the original description of a public-house?—No, but they manage to evade the law in some way; I do not think that public immorality, traffic in immorality, seduction and profligacy of that sort, is deep rooted in Luton at all, for two reasons, perhaps; one is, that it is a new place, and another is, that the population is well paid for their labour.

3034. Do you find that they are more drunken in consequence of variations in their condition, and that they take to drinking when they are better off?—I do not know that I should say that.

3035. You can hardly tell, from a state of population increasing so rapidly, whether drunkenness is on the increase?—We find, unfortunately, and these are startling facts, that our crime, our pauperism, and our illegitimacy all flow from this one source.

3036. Have you made any inquiries upon that subject?—We have tested it by investigations, and I have never myself found one case in 20, and I have been very particular in investigating it, of a committal of any kind, for any trespass or offence against the Game Laws, or any other law, but it is invariably to be traced to drink; we have more of that sort of thing at the latter end of the week, and on Sunday, than at any other time.

Mr. J. Everett. 13 June 1854.

3037. Have your inquiries led you to the conclusion that there are more offences in consequence of Sunday drinking than drinking on any other day?—Saturday and Sunday drinking; this is a striking fact, our police have more to do on Sunday evening than all the rest of the week.

3038. In consequence of drunkenness?—Yes; in consequence of these places being open, they have to be continually upon the alert.

3039. Does not the circumstance, that the people are not at work on that day, expose them to every temptation which idleness throws in their way?—Yes.

3040. You are, I presume, a total abstainer?—Yes.

3041. And that would be your recommendation to those people?—Yes, I tell them if they would cease to take the drink, there would be an end of it, as far as they are concerned.

3042. Do you think we could, without prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, do any good by closing the public-houses on Sunday?—Yes; I do not treat this as a temperance question.

3043. In your opinion, there would be no great obstacle to closing the houses on Sunday?—I am quite sure that innkeepers and others would be glad to have their places closed.

3044. You propose to close them the whole of the Sunday; you would not leave them open for two hours?—No, I do not see the necessity of it at all.

3045. You think not supplying travellers with intoxicating drinks would not be so great an inconvenience as to be worthy of consideration?—I should not object to allow them to sell to travellers; decidedly not. Perhaps I may be allowed to remark, with respect to allowing drink to be sold on the premises, I have very long held the conviction that if the Legislature would disallow the selling of drink upon the premises it would be a very great service.

3046. You think it would be a very important point to prohibit the sale of liquors at all upon the premises?—Yes.

3047. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you mean on every day in the week?—Yes; it is just the corner-stone of the sotting system; it is breaking up all family regulations and domestic comfort; the people are tempted to sit down in these places, and they are induced, by the many attractions which are held out to them, to neglect their families. They congregate together in numbers, and concoct all kinds of mischievous movements; they disturb the peace of the community, and gradually become the pest of society.

3048. *Chairman.*] You think that is owing to drinking on the premises?—Yes, to habits of boozing which are engendered.

3049. Could you prevent people drinking off what they had bought at the bar?—That would not be of any consequence; the mischief is their sitting and drinking together till midnight.

3050. You would make it illegal that liquor should be consumed on the premises?—Yes. I hold another opinion with respect to the licensing system; I believe it would be better for the Government to throw the trade quite open, and let anybody sell liquors that pleased.

3051. Mr. *Gregson.*] You would place no limits on the sale of spirituous liquors?—No.

3052. You would make it as free as the sale of beef or bread?—Yes. The Government would be free of a difficulty. It is a reflection upon the Government if it derives a revenue and does not exercise a sufficient influence over the traffic.

3053. *Chairman.*] If the trade were thrown open, as you suggest, would not the temptation, which you say now exists to a great extent, be very much increased?—My idea is, that the temptation would lose its point precisely in the same way as if you threw open the present system of representation, you would destroy the nucleus of bribery. The inducements which are held out under the present system cement the system of monopoly, and form its stronghold.

3054. You describe the effect of easy access to liquor as peculiar; you say that the people are perfectly conscious of the evil it does to them, but they cannot resist the temptation, and yet you would say that any person might sell under any circumstances as much of it as he pleased?—Yes. There are two positions: first, the Government does recognise its right to interfere in this traffic, and of course, as that is done, it can go another step, and not allow persons to sell at a certain time on the Lord's day; the Government draws a revenue from this traffic, and as that is the case, I conceive the Government should take another step, and undo as far as possible, by supplemental legislation, that which is occasioned by legislation for

for revenue. In the other case, the Government not derivingany revenue, would not be called upon to adopt any legislation upon the subject.

3055. But what do you do then with the good of the community for which, you say in this trade, peculiar legislation is required?—I fancy if this system of monopoly was knocked on the head, the thing would right itself. The chief influences and inducements are given by those who bargain for this monopoly with their capital; those are the parties who keep the system up.

3056. Then you would have legislation still further than it now exists?—If Government must meddle with it at all, I say, go a little further, and take the steps which I suggest.

3057. Government is one thing, and legislation is another; the question is, whether these houses should not be subject to restrictive legislation, quite independently of revenue?—Quite so; that is another question; if it is right for the Government to interfere in these provinces, which is debatable, I doubt whether it would not be better for the Government to interfere only where the liberty of the subject was infringed.

3058. You would close those houses on Sunday?—Decidedly, as they are connected with the question of interference with business for a particular purpose, that becomes part and parcel of the present system.

3059. You are for Sunday closing?—I am for further legislation, unless you abandon it altogether.

3060. Quite independently of the question of revenue, would it be safe to leave the trade without some regulation, in consequence of its peculiar nature?—That is a very debatable point; I should incline to the affirmative. I think it would destroy the very backbone of the system.

3061. I do not see the consistency of wishing to have them closed on Sunday, on account of their peculiar attraction, and at the same time wishing to have the trade entirely free from restriction?—Perhaps I do not make myself clear. Compelling them to be closed on Sunday is only extending present legislation. The Legislature does interfere to a certain point.

3062. As I understand you, you expect that there would be less drunkenness in the course of a little time, if you threw the trade open completely, owing to the moral suasion which benevolent persons would then exercise over the people?—Owing to the absence of the monopoly, which now offers such inducements for that kind of traffic; the moral suasion is already used.

3063. You are referring, are not you, to peculiar attractions resorted to under this monopoly, as you call it, to get people to come into those houses?—The whole range of the inducements are bad.

3064. You are probably acquainted with that period in our history when spirits used to be sold from barrows in the streets; very few people were walking upright at that time; why should it not happen again?—I think the state of education of the people, and many other influences, are at work to prevent a recurrence to that semi-barbaric condition.

3065. Mr. *Brown.*] Supposing the Government still to continue their control over these houses, would it not add to the respectability of publicans, if a larger sum were demanded for the license?—No, I do not think so; for this reason, that the sum now paid is evaded, because the parties have it paid for them.

3066. Would not the brewers find it to their interest to have a more respectable class of persons in their houses, if they ran the risk of losing the license upon the house being improperly conducted?—They have a choice now, because a great proportion of the public-houses in the country belong to the brewers.

3067. The present sum is very small, namely, 2*l.* 10*s.*; would not raising the license have a good effect?—I do not apprehend that it would have any beneficial effect; the system of licensing is avowedly evaded with us.

3068. Mr. *Gregson.*] In what way do you mean?—By houses being rated above their value, and all that sort of thing.

3069. *Chairman.*] What is the rating qualification at Luton?—Twelve pounds, I think.

Veneris, 16° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. C. P. Villiers.	Sir G. Goodman.
Mr. Brown.	Lord Dudley Stuart.
Mr. Barrow.	Mr. Lowe.
Sir J. Pakington.	Mr. Ker Seymer.
Mr. Gregson.	Mr. Packe.

THE RIGHT HON. C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Phillips, Esq., called in; and Examined.

T. Phillips, Esq.

16 June 1854.

3070. *Chairman.*] YOU are a wine and spirit merchant in Birmingham?—Yes.

3071. And you also sell by retail?—Yes.

3072. You are also a magistrate for the borough, and an alderman?—Yes.

3073. You have also been mayor?—I have been mayor in 1844 and 1845. At the expiration of my year of office a requisition was presented to me, signed by two-thirds of the members of the Council, asking me to stand again.

3074. You have read the evidence given before this Committee on the 23d of June, in the last session of Parliament, by Mr. Thomas Beggs, and published in the Minutes, folio 323, question 5450, to which he made the following answer: "Two years ago I visited at Birmingham for a special purpose. Went to Birmingham and obtained the assistance of one of the detective force connected with the police, to aid me in some inquiries respecting public-houses, by the kindness of the superintendent, and in one of the large gin-shops there I found as much preparation at any rate for disorder as at any other place. I found a man with his face painted black and a banjo, and other preparations for the evening's amusement. The detective officer said, that as much disorder arose from this house as from any other house in Birmingham. This house was kept by a magistrate and an alderman"?—I have read that answer.

3075. Do you believe that Mr. Beggs, in his reference to a magistrate and an alderman, must have intended to refer to you?—Yes.

3076. Was yours the only house in Birmingham kept by a magistrate and an alderman?—Yes; but it is totally untrue with respect to the parties being in the house for the purpose of causing a disorder. I have kept that house for 26 years, and in that time no scene, such as that described by Mr. Beggs, could possibly have occurred in my establishment.

3077. But this evidence only states that there were preparations of that sort?—I have a report from the superintendent of police who accompanied Mr. Beggs on that occasion, in which he flatly denies the statement of Mr. Beggs.

3078. Does he deny that there was "a man with his face painted black, and a banjo, and other preparations for the evening's amusement"?—He states that Mr. Beggs never went into my house, either during the time he was with him, or when the detective officer was with him. I have a letter from Mr. Stephens, which perhaps the Committee will permit me to read; it has reference to the visit of Mr. Beggs to Birmingham.

3079. Was Mr. Stephens present when Mr. Beggs gave his evidence last session?—He was not; since the publication of that evidence, a party in Birmingham has published a second edition of a poem called "Birmingham in and out," to which he appended the evidence given by Mr. Beggs; Mr. Stephens received a copy of this poem, and immediately on the receipt of that copy, he wrote this letter to Mr. Horton, that is the author of the poem to which I refer; "Police office, February 9th, 1854. Dear sir,—On reading your kind present this evening, at pages 247 and 248, I beg to state that the statement made is at variance with the fact. I accompanied Mr. Beggs in the early part of the night that he visited

visited Birmingham, and Inspector Glossop; the latter and I assure you that Mr. Beggs must have (I don't say wilfully), mistook the gin-palace, as he terms it, for some establishment, for during the time he was along with myself and Inspector Glossop (informs me) the place in question was not visited by either. I beg also to add, that on no one occasion have I ever known the police to have been called in to quell any disturbance, or that it was a place of resort of bad, or even suspected characters. Had I been aware that Mr. Beggs had given such evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, I should most certainly, when under examination, have given it that flat contradiction which I now do."

3080. Your contradiction, I think, goes to the extent of saying, that there never was any disorder in your public-house, and that the superintendent of police never gave Mr. Beggs any authority for stating that there was?—Never.

3081. You do not state that there were not arrangements for the amusement of the evening, that is to say, there was music and singing in the house?—I state most emphatically that nothing of the kind ever existed in my house; nothing of the sort would be permitted for a moment. I have kept the house for 26 years, and I may state that previously to my entering upon the establishment, for 65 years, it had been open on the Sunday, and from the moment I entered the establishment it was closed on the Sunday.

3082. Why did you close the house on the Sunday?—Because I thought Sunday-morning opening tended to the immorality of the people.

3083. Do you close it the whole of Sunday?—Yes; it has never been opened.

3084. It is not a public-house?—No.

3085. It is merely a retail spirit shop?—It is principally for the purpose of selling by the bottle; there is no convenience for persons drinking; we keep no seats in the house, and it is a business we do not encourage.

3086. It is generally supposed that more drinking takes place in those houses which have no seats, and which are commonly known in London as gin-palaces?—This is not a gin-palace; it has not been decorated for 15 years; you cannot call it a gin-palace.

3087. It is a place where people come in and out to drink?—Yes; Inspector Glossop, who was with Mr. Beggs the latter part of the evening, also reports to Mr. Stephens; he says, "Inspector Glossop reports for the information of the chief superintendent, that he remembers visiting the public-houses in Birmingham with Mr. Beggs, and distinctly pointed out to him the difference in the conduct of spirit vaults situated in the same street, and on arriving opposite the one kept by Mr. Phillips, said, 'This is a well-conducted house, and you need not visit it, unless you wish to see the contrast in the class of customers to those already visited.'"

3088. Have you had any communication with Mr. Beggs since he gave that evidence?—I have not.

3089. Then you do not know whether he is aware that he mis-stated the fact?—I know a friend of his who had seen Mr. Stephens, and wrote to him; he said to that friend that he would visit me afterwards, and he would come and contradict his evidence if he found he had been wrong.

3090. He did not visit you?—No.

3091. Is Mr. Beggs a native of Birmingham?—He resides in London; I think he is a native of Yorkshire, but I do not know.

3092. Is there anything else you wish to state to the Committee?—No, I am not aware of anything more; it is quite a mistake upon the part of Mr. Beggs.

3093. Mr. *Brown.*] The superintendent of police in his letter to you says that Mr. Beggs must have stated that it was your house, when it might have been another house?—The inspector of police stated to me, that after passing my house they went into another house about 500 yards off, where they saw that which he describes.

3094. It is clear that Mr. Beggs made a mistake, and reported your house instead of the other?—Yes; but it has been doing me a mischief which I think I do not deserve. Mr. Beggs should have been careful how he made such a statement here; I never heard of it till just as the Committee were closing their labours. I sent a communication to the Chairman, and he said it could not be admitted into the evidence because the Committee would not sit again that Session.

Chairman.] The Committee were satisfied that there has been a mistake.

Sir *Joseph Paxton*, called in; and Examined.

Sir *J. Paxton.*

16 June 1854.

3095. *Chairman.*] HAVE you been led at all to consider what would be the effect of opening public places of innocent recreation on Sunday upon the working classes, particularly with reference to their habit of frequenting public-houses?—Yes; I can give a very practical illustration of the question you ask me, inasmuch as I can give one instance of parks being closed on Sunday, which had been open to the public, perhaps for 100 years for recreation, namely, Chatsworth, the Duke of Devonshire's place. You must be aware that to keep those large parks open on Sunday required that all the servants should be on duty the same on Sunday as any other day in the week; without increasing the establishment very much, that gave them a very onerous duty, always to be there attending on Sunday as well as on the week days. About 10 years ago they petitioned the Duke, and the Duke desired that the place should be closed on Sundays; it is open on every day but Sunday. We had been in the habit of having from Sheffield, perhaps from 300 to 500, and even as many as 800 persons coming over from Sheffield to go over the grounds and the place. As soon as Chatsworth became closed, almost the same number of persons came into the district, and they used to revel at the public-houses, and create great disturbances. In a very little time, perhaps a year after that, the duke, upon the representation of these facts, re-opened a great part of the grounds, not the house, but the park and all the outer grounds, so that they might go about those grounds as they used to do. Since that time there has been no difficulty about the public-house nuisance on Sunday in our district at all.

3096. Am I to understand that when the people had visited the house and park, they did not resort afterwards to the public-houses in the neighbourhood?—There were never any great disturbances whatever; they had to go to the public-houses for their vehicles; but they were never sotting and drinking for hours together in the public-houses as they did during the interval when we shut up the place, because they had nothing to do beyond going to the garden of the inn, which was consequently filled on Sunday afternoon to suffocation.

3097. Do you ascribe that entirely to their being interested and occupied in viewing the park and the house?—Yes; when the park was re-opened they did not go and hang about the public-houses, they merely went to get their tea or anything they required, and then went back to Sheffield in their conveyances as they had done before.

3098. No mischief was ever done to the house on Sundays?—On Sunday the house is still closed; there was never any damage done in the grounds.

3099. You know of no other evil attending the opening of the park on Sunday?—None whatever; we had only one man, or perhaps two, over the whole premises to look after them; and the people behaved exceedingly well.

3100. What is the distance of Chatsworth from Sheffield?—Twelve miles.

3101. You say they used to come into the district in nearly as great numbers by railway and other conveyances when the park was closed on Sundays?—We had no railway communication at that time; they came over into the district, but failing to find the place open for them, as they used to have it, they resorted to the public-houses.

3102. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Does it only require one or two men to look after the grounds on Sunday?—That is all; the grounds immediately close to the house are not opened now on Sundays. There is a large quantity of ground outside, and there are only two men employed there. I have never found it necessary to employ more for that purpose.

3103. I suppose the glass houses are not opened?—No; we closed the whole of the grounds, because it took a great number of men in the first instance.

3104. *Chairman.*] Does your experience of the working classes generally lead you to the conclusion that, when they have leisure, if places of innocent recreation are open to them, they will resort to those places in preference to the alehouse?—I have no doubt it would have every imaginable tendency to do them good; for instance, opening the Crystal Palace on the Sunday afternoon, I believe would draw out from London a large number of people who are now spending their time in gin-palaces, or places in which they receive injury.

3105. I presume it would require a great number of persons to attend to the Crystal Palace on Sunday?—If it is open on Sunday afternoon at half-past one

or

or two o'clock, the parties who live in the place would have time for repose on Sunday morning, and to go to church, or do whatever they thought proper. It would not require such a large additional staff; as, for instance, a railway, or any other place where you must put double the number of people on all day.

3106. It has been strongly recommended to this Commtttee in evidence, and by a great number of petitions also to the House, that public-houses should be generally closed on Sunday; do you think, looking at the number of persons occupied on Sunday in serving customers in public-houses, that there would be rather less labour done on the Sunday than there is at present if the Crystal Palace and other places of amusement were opened on that day, and the public-houses were closed?—I think there would be a great deal less labour done.

3107. And more instruction and amusement derived by the people?—I think there would be a marked improvement; indeed, I must say from my own experience, that there is a very marked improvement in the condition of the people now on Sundays, from what I can remember. I have paid particular attention to the subject for 30 years.

3108. Is it your opinion that when opportunities for rational recreation are presented that working people are disposed and ready to avail themselves of those opportunities?—The moment opportunities for recreation are given, the people avail themselves of them. Large masses of the people avail themselves of the facilities which they now have of getting out of London, by railway communication, into the country. Before any railway communication was opened, in some parts of London the drunkenness which went on was quite abominable.

3109. Should you say that the tastes of the people are more elevated than they were in former times?—I am certain they are. There is a growing tendency every day, and a desire on the part of the lower classes to improve themselves, and to take those facilities which are offered to them. I am confident that if abundant facilities are open to the working classes for recreation and all kinds of rational amusement, those enjoyments will tend very much to elevate them and do them good.

3110. A witness has stated to this Committee that since the Crystal Palace has been building large numbers of persons have been in the habit of coming down from London on Sunday, and that they all resort to the public-houses?—Yes, because the Crystal Palace is not opened. If the Crystal Palace were open they would not go to the public-houses. I will venture to say, the moment the Crystal Palace is open on Sundays those people who are rioting about outside of it will go inside; there they would be under regulation, and they will have an opportunity of improving their minds. In fact, from my own experience of these matters, I am quite astonished at the reverence which the lower classes display for anything grand and beautiful. I have been particularly struck with this at Chatsworth. Soon after the railway was opened in that district the Duke was solicited to allow excursion trains to come from Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham, Leeds, and all the district; we allowed them to come two or three days a week in large excursion trains. As many as 1,000 or 1,200 go round the place at one time, and in no instance have we ever found any difficulty arise. They have always gone round, I have observed particularly, in the most orderly, quiet manner; they have appeared almost awe-struck with the magnificence of the scene before them, and in no instance do I remember a difficulty having arisen. I will tell you one peculiar case. We do not allow the people at Chatsworth to eat their food, which they bring with them in their baskets, in the gardens themselves, or in the house; they eat it in the park or the outer grounds. There was a party from Leicester who had brought their food in baskets. As soon as they got outside a part of them sat down upon the grass to begin to eat their food. Now there was a regulation printed that they were not to eat their food in the place or in the gardens, but in the park and outer grounds. The very next part of the same party (they were in a continuous line) came up to them and ordered them to get up directly. They said, "You have no business to do this; this is against the privilege which has been given to us; take your things and put them into the basket, and come with us round the park, and you can eat your food outside." This was said in the presence of one of my superintendents, who was at that time walking up to the parties to tell them that it was not allowed, but a portion of the same party saved him the trouble.

3111. Do you find that they bring spirituous liquors or intoxicating drinks in their baskets, and get drunk in the grounds?—No, I never heard of such a thing; the only disturbance we ever had was with a party of teetotallers; they were so excited

Sir *J. Paxton.*

16 June 1854.

excited with the scene and with the speechifying that went on in the park, that a number of them bolted up into the woods, and broke down the evergreens to carry off for a trophy of the day. We were obliged to send the police after them; that was the only time we ever had any real difficulty.

3112. Do you allow people still to come on week days, as you have been describing now?—Yes; we do not allow anything to come up to Chatsworth.

3113. Do a great number of the working people come on the week days?—Yes, a great quantity.

3114. On Monday?—There are large quantities on Monday.

3115. Sir *G. Goodman.*] You allow the grounds to be open on Sunday?—The outer grounds; there are 300 or 400 acres of ground round the house which are open on Sundays, but that part of the gardens which is close to the house is not open on Sundays, for the reasons I have mentioned, that the domestics petitioned the Duke that they might have Sunday to themselves. We opened the other part, because it took very little keeping.

3116. *Chairman.*] What is the greatest number of people who have visited Chatsworth in one day?—I should think about 2,000.

3117. You have not a doubt, I presume, that if the Crystal Palace were open on Sunday, many more would visit it on that day than on any other?—I have no doubt, if it were opened, that it would be thronged with the lower classes of people, who have no other day to get out. Nine-tenths of the people who go out on Monday are not the best regulated people; they are those who keep Saint Monday, and who go out to spend it under any circumstances. I think to give a poor man, who is industrious and hardworking, and who attends to his business six days in the week, the opportunity of recreation on the Sunday afternoon at the Crystal Palace, would be doing him an amount of good upon which you cannot calculate. It would also have a tendency to stop the keeping of Saint Monday, in my opinion, if an opportunity were afforded to the people to see these places on the Sunday.

3118. Would you expect that any disorder or drunkenness would occur; you have probably considered the variety of characters who would visit the Crystal Palace on that day, Sunday being the great leisure day?—The Crystal Palace should only be opened according to my plan of doing it, at one or two o'clock, and I should not sell anything beyond ginger beer, tea and coffee, and that description of beverage.

3119. You would not see any inconvenience or objection, though those liquors are sold on the week days, to prohibit their sale on Sunday?—I should not, indeed; I think I would not open the Crystal Palace before half-past one, and by that time all the working people would have had their dinner, therefore it would not be a matter of absolute necessity that they should have beer for the purpose of refreshment in the afternoon.

3120. Do you suppose that those who have the direction or control of the Crystal Palace would consent to suspend the sale of liquors on Sunday?—I have not the slightest doubt about it; I am sure they would.

3121. Under those circumstances, you would not be afraid of the vast number of people that would assemble on that day?—Not at all; I have no doubt in the world that they would be very easily controlled, and would require very little police supervision.

3122. I presume the price of admission would be very low, so as to afford everybody an opportunity of visiting it?—There is no doubt it would. The directors of the company have always been desirous to do the best they can, first of all for themselves; and I believe the best thing would be a very low admission. The directors are actuated, I may say with great confidence, by a feeling of public duty in carrying out the Crystal Palace.

3123. Has there been any calculation as to the probable number that might attend on Sunday, if the Crystal Palace was opened at one o'clock in the afternoon?—Many calculations have been made about that. I think it would very much depend upon the facilities for getting to the palace. At present we have only one railway, namely, from London Bridge, into the palace. Another line is in course of construction at this time, from the West-end; and, of course, if a second one were made, those two lines would take a very considerable number of people. Still, you are aware that a great number of people go now in vans to Hampton Court and to Richmond, and to all the sight-seeing places round London on Sunday morning.

3124. Do you know what the habits of the people are who visit those places on Sunday in the vans, and there congregate in great numbers; do they stop at the public-houses on their return, and does it lead to much riot or drunkenness?—I have never seen it.

3125. Have you any reason to expect, from what has taken place at Chatsworth, that there would be disturbance and drunkenness caused by opening the Crystal Palace on the Sunday afternoon?—Certainly not. I apprehend persons going to see the Crystal Palace would, in the first place, be too tired by their exertions in going round it, to have any inducement to go the public-houses to drink. Their wish would be to take recreation, and see the beautiful objects which the place contains; and when they had been there several hours, I do not think there would be a tendency on their part to stop and drink, or to do anything beyond what people ordinarily do under those circumstances. I could not say that they would not go to the public-houses, but I believe the tendency would be otherwise.

3126. Have you attempted to obtain the opinion of persons who are more versed in the habits of the people in the metropolis, as to the effect of opening the Crystal Palace on Sunday, whether it would be likely to attract those who now spend Sunday ill?—That is the opinion of many who have paid great attention to the subject.

3127. You believe that there are still a vast number of people who resort to tippling houses on Sunday, for want of any other place of attraction?—Yes; and they go to low tea-gardens, where there is a system carried on of putting gin or brandy over the wall; it is carried to an extent in some places beyond any conception almost.

3128. Those places are open on Sunday?—Yes.

3129. In fact there are a great number of places open the Sunday, which you would consider more objectionable than the Crystal Palace?—I consider all those small places are very objectionable indeed; they are mere places of resort; but on the other hand the Crystal Palace, with the various objects in it, would have an elevating tendency.

3130. Have you formed any opinion with respect to the objections to opening places of amusement on Sunday, on the ground of the labour of persons attending to show these places?—The directors of the Crystal Palace would shut up the commercial courts. They are so arranged in the galleries, and in the other parts, that they could be shut up altogether. There would only be the horticultural department, and the department of art, to be seen, except the grounds outside.

3131. There are departments where things are sold in the Crystal Palace?—There are large stalls in courts, and those courts could be closed on Sunday.

3132. There would be no objection to doing that?—None whatever; they are arranged so that they could be closed.

3133. Why is not the Crystal Palace opened on Sunday just as well as any other place; is it merely because money is taken at the doors?—It is merely because money is taken at the doors. In the first instance, Lord Derby gave us a charter to open on Sunday at half-past one; but there is some obsolete Act of Parliament which was brought forward, and that prevented its being done.

3134. The Act of George the Second, which prohibits any place where money is taken, being opened on Sunday?—Yes. The Government themselves take money at some places on Sunday; they do so at the chapel at Greenwich; they take 2*d.* for every individual; I have paid it two or three times.

3135. Mr. *Brown.*] And I believe they do so at the Chapel Royal?—Yes.

3136. Sir *G. Goodman.*] I gather from your evidence that you are favourable, not only to opening parks on Sunday, but also to opening the Crystal Palace?—Yes; except the commercial departments.

3137. You would limit the sale of drink to ginger beer, lemonade, and other light beverages?—Yes.

3138. And tea and coffee?—Yes, tea and coffee, and all those light things.

3139. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Have you made any calcuation of how many persons would be employed on Sunday afternoon, if you kept the Crystal Palace open?—I have no doubt it would take about the same number of persons who attend there on the other days of the week; on Mondays, for instance.

3140. What would that number be?—Perhaps about 30.

3141. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Under the present state of affairs, you would not be able

Sir *J. Paxton.*

16 June 1854.

able to open the Crystal Palace at all on Sunday?—Not to the poorer people.

3142. Why do you draw a distinction between poorer people and others?—Because it is possible for the shareholders, the same as the proprietors of the Zoological Society, to pass a resolution to the effect that they will visit the Crystal Palace themselves on Sunday.

3143. And they might admit their friends gratuitously?—Yes.

3144. Under the present state of the law, you would not be able to receive any one on payment of an entrance fee?—If you look at the charter, you will see that a distinct clause is put in, by which we are prohibited from taking money in any shape or form on Sunday.

3145. *Chairman.*] Would that apply to tickets taken on Saturday?—It applies to Saturday, and even to season tickets; we could not issue return tickets by the railway on Saturday.

3146. Sir *J. Pakington.*] What do you mean by saying, "It applies to Saturday"?—We could not issue a ticket on Saturday to admit a person on Sunday.

3147. Your answer was not intended to show that there was any difficulty of admission at any hour on Saturday?—No, there is none whatever.

3148. Sir *G. Goodman.*] You consider that the use of season tickets would be indirectly receiving money on Sunday?—Yes; it is paying for admission the same as any other way of doing it.

3149. Mr. *Brown.*] Another ticket would not answer the purpose, although it was taken any other day in the course of the week?—No.

3150. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Have you taken any legal opinion upon that point, whether a season ticket-holder might be permitted to enter the Crystal Palace on Sunday or not?—No, we have not.

3151. Are you quite certain that admission on Sunday, by means of a season ticket, would be held to be a payment of an entrance-fee on Sunday?—Yes, I think so. You are aware how they manage at Cremorne and other places; they let you in for nothing at all, and you pay your shilling for refreshment, which you have to take out; that is an evasion of the law, and the Crystal Palace Company, I hope, will never resort to any such scheme as that.

3152. *Chairman.*] It is conformable with your general experience of the people of late years, that they do resort to places of recreation instead of public-houses wherever they are open?—They are very much improved. I lived in the districts about London 30 years ago for several years, and I noticed at that time all the particulars. It was then thought of opening the Horticultural Society's gardens at Fulham, on Sunday, but there was such an outcry about it that it was impossible to do so. At that time my attention was first drawn to the subject, and I have noticed from that period a tendency on the part of the lower classes to improve themselves on Sunday, if they have the means put before them; and certainly I do not see so much drunkenness in the gin palaces and other places, since the railways have been open to take the people out of London on Sunday afternoon.

3153. Some places are open on Sunday, which used to be closed from an apprehension that they would lead to disorder, and that the people would spoil the things. The general demeanour of the people has been good, and they have attended those places without any evil or disadvantage to themselves?—Very much so. Kew Gardens we opened last year, and a very large number of people go to Kew Gardens.

3154. Sir *J. Pakington.*] On Sunday?—Yes.

3155. Where have your observations been made besides Chatsworth?—I know all the London district, perhaps, quite as well.

3156. Have you had your attention turned to this question as regards the London population?—Yes; I have seen a great deal of the London population. I have gone out on Sundays to see their condition.

3157. Is it your opinion that of late years the habits of the working portion of the people has altered with regard to their amusements on Sunday?—They are more anxious than they used to be to get out on Sunday for recreation into the open fields; into the country.

3158. Do you think that arises from an increased anxiety for fresh air, or a change of taste on their part; or does it arise from the fact that the establishment of railways and steamboats has increased accommodation, and offered temptations to get out of London?—I think both. There is a better taste growing up amongst the people, and those facilities have stimulated those tastes.

3159. From

3159. From your own observations, are you of opinion that the tendency to resort to public-houses, and to consume intoxicating liquors on Sunday, has diminished amongst the working classes?—I think it has since I can remember; indeed, I am sure it has.

3160. Have you formed any decided opinion upon the question with regard to closing all public-houses entirely on Sundays?—No, I have not thought of that subject; I should myself doubt the expediency of it.

3161. Of what should you be afraid?—By closing all the public-houses on Sunday you would very much inconvenience the whole travelling population of the country.

3162. Mr. *Brown.*] But supposing them to be always open to travellers?—How can you distinguish a man who is a traveller? he could not take a certificate with him to show that he was a traveller; I think the better plan is to induce the people to go to places of recreation.

3163. Sir *J. Pakington.*] To the Crystal Palace, and elsewhere?—That is my notion.

3164. Mr. *Brown.*] Have you any doubt in your mind whatever, if the public-houses were closed on Sunday, that you would release many more people from duty on Sunday than would be necessarily employed in the Crystal Palace, the Botanical Gardens, the Zoological Gardens, or any places of that kind, to see that no injury was done by the visitors?—No doubt of it.

3165. *Chairman.*] Is there any other suggestion which you wish to make to the Committee upon this matter?—No.

Robert Neilson, Esq. called in; and Examined.

3166. *Chairman.*] ARE you a Magistrate for the County of Lancaster?—I am.

3167. Have you been led to consider the effect of opening places of public amusement for the people on Sunday?—Very much so, in consequence of living in a neighbourhood where there used to be a great deal of drunkenness.

3168. Do you act as a magistrate?—Yes.

3169. Therefore you have to hear a great deal about the drunken habits of the people in the district for which you act?—Particularly, in consequence of my having a farm in the neighbourhood, and being also very strict with regard to sobriety amongst my own people.

3170. To what part of Lancashire are you now referring?—To a district about eight miles from Liverpool, midway between Wootton and Prescot, both of which places contain a very large amount of a low class of population, particularly Irish.

3171. To what period do you refer, when they were very drunken in their habits?—When I first went there, about 12 years ago.

3172. Has there been any change since that time, and do you refer that to any particular cause?—The change has been gradual, and evident, except in particular cases. But what led me to consider the question very materially, in the first instance was, that at those benefit clubs where the wives of the members were in the habit of attending the meetings, there was invariably less drunkenness than at those clubs where they did not do so. And where any amusement takes place, at which the wives of the farmers and labourers can accompany their husbands, there is invariably less drunkenness than when the men are alone.

3173. Are you speaking generally, or with reference to Sunday?—Generally, as regards time of the week.

3174. Do you know any places of amusement which are open on Sunday to which the wives accompany their husbands?—Not in the district in which I reside; there is there very little opportunity for amusement. It is a subject upon which I have conversed both with labourers and farmers of different grades; and their general reply, in extenuation of any case of drunkenness has been, that they have no means of amusement, and no means of society, except in the public-house. And I think, in many individual instances of which I am aware, men have been led into drunkenness, not from any tendency to vice, but simply from inability to resist the temptation which is constantly presented to them from the number of public-houses and beerhouses on every road.

3175. And the absence of other places of assembly?—That applies more particularly to Sundays, or holidays. But my attention to the other point was drawn by the case of a very steady young man of my own, who took to drinking; he told

R. Neilson, Esq.

16 June 1854.

told me it was not for the want of the drink, but that there always was society in the public-houses, and that the men there were so very agreeable; he was quizzed and laughed at if he did not sit down to his glass. It was very difficult, if he wanted to quench his thirst, to avoid sitting down to drink; if he escaped from one place, he was sure to fall in with another. I found, from inquiry amongst the police on this subject, that there were several instances of public-houses and beerhouses where there were diverting pleasant fellows who had, what is called, the "run of their teeth;" that is, they were allowed to eat and drink, and they were employed by the publicans to sing songs and tell stories, and badger any country fellow who came till they made him drink.

3176. Is that the case at the beerhouses, or the licensed victuallers' houses?—In both.

3177. You think, owing to the number of houses which there are, the keepers of those houses are obliged to resort to those means to get a living?—The number of houses, and, in many instances, the style of them.

3178. Does your observation apply to every day in the week?—Yes, to every day in the week, particularly to market-days.

3179. Did this particular person to whom you have referred, and who complained of the temptation presented to him, say that he would be willing to have these houses diminished in number, or closed on the Sunday?—I did not ask him that question. He attributed his habit of drinking entirely to his meeting a number of young fellows, who were induced to go into the public-houses, where they went on from glass to glass until they got drunk. Having had my attention turned particularly to the arrangements of the police force on one or two occasions of public disturbance, I have been brought more into contact with them, and been more in the habit of instituting inquiries among them, and this has been the subject to which I have particularly turned the attention of the police. I will mention one strong instance in a village not far from me; there is less drunkenness there on the occasion of a flower-show, for instance, where the men and women go together, than there is at any place where men alone happen to be together.

3180. Is that the opinion of the police, or your opinion from observation?—Both, and from the returns of actual drunkenness, and not very long ago, in a conversation which I had with an inspector, he told me that he thought drunkenness was on the decrease.

3181. In consequence of what?—Partly owing to a closer inspection of the houses, which we had instituted, by the police force, and partly by a better taste being generated by flower-shows, and meetings of that sort.

3182. The police inspector ascribed the decrease of drunkenness to those causes?—Yes; the police consider it has originated in that way. Social amusement is a thing that ought to be very much fostered.

3183. You think it will be one way of checking drunkenness to facilitate the access of the people to places where men can take their wives and families on Sunday as well as week days?—Yes, particularly on Sunday; I think it would have a most beneficial effect.

3184. Is there any place of amusement in your neighbourhood to which the people have access on Sunday?—From inquiries I have made, I find that since the steamers began to run, large numbers of people go over from Lancashire to the Cheshire shore in the summer time, particularly where there are amusements not only connected with the houses of entertainment, but where the country is well arranged for walks, and that there is less intoxication, although a large quantity of liquor is drunk by the number of people who go there. There are fewer instances of intoxication, owing to there being attractions out of doors of a social character.

3185. Do the men go with their wives and families?—Yes.

3186. That was the statement of the police?—Quite so; and I am perfectly convinced of the truth of it.

3187. Have you any suggestion to make with respect to any amendment of the law, in consequence of the great temptations to drink which are offered to the poor people?—I happen to have seen a great deal of the licensing of public-houses, particularly at the rising town of St. Helen's, which is not far from me, where I think there are two or three public-houses or beerhouses to every street, and there are constantly fresh applications being made for other licences.

3188. How far is that from Liverpool?—About 12 miles; and in consequence of the influence which was desired to be brought to bear upon the magistrates

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of the vicinity at petty sessions, as I was at a distance from St. Helen's, and known to be very averse to the system of drunkenness, and endeavouring to put it down, I was generally requested to attend on licensing days, because I invariably objected to granting a fresh licence, unless there appeared to me to be a sufficient requirement for it on the part of public convenience. At last I suggested, and the other magistrates concurred, that no private application should be received by any magistrate. It was the custom to call upon the magistrates with a plan of the proposed house, and a recommendation, signed by a number of householders, and everything in favour of the erection of this building. The plans were generally of houses sufficient almost to have been put in front of the Crystal Palace. We determined not to receive any of those things, but to have everything brought before the Board; consequently a very great diminution took place in the granting of licences. But the way in which beerhouse licences are granted by the Excise is too indiscriminate, for you invariably find beershops in out-of-the-way places, where we know, by the investigations of the police, and by searching after the origin of crime, that people of low character, and generally bent on bad purposes, are sure to resort. Having to deal with a large number of cases which are brought up, previously to being sent to the petty or quarter sessions, before the magistrates, I know many instances of theft, of my own knowledge, which were traced to having been concocted at these low beerhouses.

3189. All the endeavours of the magistrates to reduce the number of houses are frustrated by the facility with which people get licences from the Excise for beershops?—Quite so. I would say that either ale or beer ought to be sold as ginger-beer at every petty shop, so that every man could get it to quench his thirst without being rendered liable to the temptation which the beershop or public-houses excite, particularly during the winter when large numbers are congregated in them; or the beershops should be done away with, and the licences of public-houses should be very much increased in amount.

3190. Do you mean the payment for the licence?—Yes; and they should be only granted at quarter sessions instead of at the petty sessions, which would give a much more general supervision upon an application for a licence than takes place in petty sessions. The magistrates would have the advantage of local information, because all the gentlemen attending petty sessions as magistrates would naturally feel interested in the establishment of beerhouses, and would make a point of attending at quarter sessions.

3191. Your object in that is to reduce the number of low houses, in which the people congregate together for the purpose of drinking?—Exactly.

3192. Mr. *Brown.*] If those people were charged a very considerable amount for a licence, would not it prevent many of them from taking up licences?—Generally speaking, it would. It is found advantageous in the district I now allude to for the large brewers in the neighbourhood to be the holders of almost all the public-houses, and occasionally they are the direct applicants, or the backers of applicants, for licences. I think raising the licences would have another effect, which would be very beneficial. It would form a fund in the hands of the authorities sufficient to pay for the independent inspection of public-houses. The diminution of the number of public-houses would render inspection an easy measure, and it would relieve the police from the temptation to which they are very often exposed by offers of meat and drink, and various things, which I know are in many instances rejected, very much to the credit of the police. In the county where I act, the cases are few which come before the magistrates; but it is the fact that the policemen are exposed to temptation, which in some instances they fall under.

3193. Have you presided at the Saturday evening concerts in Lord Nelson-street, to which labourers frequently resort?—I have not presided over them, because it is too distant, but I have heard of them frequently from gentlemen who have been there, and also from conversations I have had with the governor of Kirkdale Gaol, and the different governors of gaols with whom I have been in communication. In inspecting the arrangements of the police, they gave very great praise to the social order amongst the parties. They consider it is giving a better tone to the tastes of the parties when places of that sort have been attended by gentlemen in the position of Mr. Rathbone or yourself. It induces many people to go with their wives and families, who otherwise would not go, and the taste once established spreads very much.

3194. Sir *J. Pakington.*] You have suggested that the granting of licences

R. Neilson, Esq.

16 June 1854.

for public-houses should be transferred from the magistrates at petty sessions to the magistrates in quarter sessions?—Yes.

3195. Are you in the habit of attending quarter sessions yourself?—I am.

3196. In the event of that arrangement being made, which you have suggested, how do you think it would be possible for the quarter sessions, as a court, to judge of the propriety, or otherwise, of granting licences to applicants from a distant locality in the county?—I do not think the power of judging would be diminished. I think the magistrates of the district from which the application came would make a point of attending; but in petty sessions two magistrates are sufficient to decide the case, and, perhaps, those gentlemen may happen to be immediately interested in a particular case from being connected either in political feeling or private interest. I think it places them in a very unpleasant position. I do not mean to say for one moment that any gentleman would be influenced in their decision; but we know what human nature is. I know from my own knowledge that in many instances it would be preferred by the magistrates at petty sessions to have cases of that sort brought before them in quarter sessions. I have been requested to attend on several occasions, when our own magistrates in the immediate vicinity felt that they might be accused of giving a biassed opinion from peculiar circumstances.

3197. Is it not a very rare case for only two magistrates to be in attendance at petty sessions on the licensing day?—It is not a very frequent occurrence, but it may so happen.

3198. Theoretically it may happen, but practically have you ever known it happen?—Practically it does happen.

3199. Within your own knowledge?—Yes.

3200. Within your knowledge it has happened; but you admit that it is quite an exceptional case?—Quite so.

3201. If the quarter sessions were held at a place far from the district in which the application was made for the licence, would not the magistrates practically be obliged to arrive at their decision upon the representation of the magistrates of the locality, who would attend at the petty sessions?—Not exactly, because all applications if made to us, as regards the cases in my neighbourhood, are supported by evidence adduced by some parties in the town. Inquiries are always made of the police as to the number of public-houses in the same street or neighbourhood; the distance, in lineal yards, to the nearest public-house; the number of inhabitants; the number of houses in the street; and the general requirements of the neighbourhood. We always give publicity to the application; so that very frequently an opposition is set up, sometimes originating amongst the holders of houses already established, and sometimes by the inhabitants themselves, who do not consider another public-house necessary.

3202. You have stated that the Excise grant the beerhouse licences indiscriminately; is the law evaded which requires a certain amount of rating to keep a beerhouse?—It may be evaded, although it is not evaded as far as the actual payment of rates goes. A case recently occurred in which an attempt was made to rate a house at considerably more than the house was worth, simply because the party was applying for a beerhouse licence.

3203. Did that attempt succeed?—It did not, but simply through the interference of private parties.

3204. Have you known of many such cases?—I have heard of many such cases; I know that that has been tried in my neighbourhood.

3205. Speaking generally, in your own neighbourhood, do you think that much evasion of the required rating takes place?—Yes; I think particularly in the outlying districts of Lancashire; wherever a facility is given to evade the rate, it is extraordinary the way in which it is taken advantage of; I may mention as an instance of the application of the principle, that there was a bye-law passed by the Corporation of Liverpool, by which cottages under 10 *l.* per annum were not rated, and the consequence was, that parties built cottages and let them at 9 *l.* 18 *s.* per annum, in order to escape the rate, having the rent paid weekly, and instead of the collector of the rent being paid his commission out of the money which he gathered and paid to the proprietor, the parties having the cottages were obliged to pay it.

3206. Do you think that the law requiring a certain amount of rating, as one condition of keeping a beerhouse, has at all tended to raise the character of the beerhouses?—Not at all.

445

R. Neilson, Esq.

16 June 1854.

3207. Is there still much complaint of the beerhouses?—Very much.

3208. Do you think it would have a good effect if a new law were passed requiring a higher rating than is now required?—I think there should be a higher rate of duty for a licence, and greater difficulty in obtaining it than by a mere application to the Excise with a certain number of signatures.

3209. As it is, under the existing system, the beerhouses are the cause of great complaints in Lancashire?—Yes.

3210. Speaking generally, is it your opinion, that in the part of Lancashire with which you are acquainted they are worse conducted, and frequented by worse characters, than the Licensed Victuallers' houses?—Yes; and for this reason, there are no or very few public-houses in unfrequented places, but there are beershops in unfrequented places, which are invariably known as the resort of thieves and poachers.

3211. Have you any reason to think that crime is promoted and encouraged by the operation of the beerhouse system?—I have, strongly. I have the confession of boys whose progress I have watched, and endeavoured to reform, commencing in petty theft, and ending in transportation, who have stated to me at the gaol, and to the chaplain of the gaol, that their first dereliction from the path of rectitude was owing to the associates which they met in those beerhouses.

3212. Are you prepared to recommend to the Committee any plan by which you think the evils arising from the beerhouse system might be removed?—I know of none except the general abolition of beerhouses.

3213. How would you carry it out?—I am not prepared to answer that question; it is a subject to which I have not turned my attention.

3214. Supposing they were prospectively prohibited entirely, would you propose to offer to the working classes any substitute in the way of accommodation?—I think if they had an opportunity more generally of recreation with their families, and of meeting together, so that they could become acquainted with the events and topics of the day without going to public-houses, there would be a very great diminution in the tendency to drunkenness. I think public places of resort, particularly such places as the Crystal Palace, though that is too individual a case for me to allude to, but such places as botanic gardens, and places of that sort, where the people could meet together, I am convinced would be productive of very great moral good, particularly if open on the Sabbath, under proper restrictions.

3215. If the beerhouses were prohibited, do you think that it would be necessary, in fairness, for the comfort of the people, that the number of public-houses should be increased?—No; because, as far as my district goes, there are more public-houses than are necessary for wayfaring purposes of every sort.

3216. Has there been any movement in your neighbourhood in favour of the entire closing of public-houses on Sunday?—I am not aware of any actual movement, but the general expression of feeling leads to closing them; the only difficulty which has occurred to me on that subject is with regard to travellers.

3217. What do you mean by "the general expression of feeling"?—From conversation with the farmers and others in my neighbourhood.

3218. Do you allude to farmers and working men also?—It is a subject upon which I have spoken to the farmers and the better class of my own labourers, and I think they would all agree to it.

3219. What is the feeling of publicans on the subject?—Against it.

3220. *Chairman.*] Have you often had occasion to convict beer sellers?—Not very often in my own district. I never spare one under any circumstances.

3221. Are the Committee to understand you to refer to the evil of the beerhouse itself, or to the misconduct of the man who keeps the house?—I think the good which results from a beerhouse is more than counterbalanced by the tendency to evil which arises from its existence, even if it is not misconducted by the proprietor.

3222. You have not much experience of the misconduct of persons who keep beerhouses?—Yes. In the district where I sit as a magistrate, in Prescot, we have frequently parties brought up for evasions of the law on Sunday, or late hours, and we have convicted them; but for one case which is found out, there are 50 in progress for a long time before they are discovered; the inducement to evade the law if they can, or the inducement to allow illegal proceedings, is very great.

R. Nelson, Esq.

16 June 1854.

3223. You have no doubt that the system of inspection is very defective at present?—Very.

3224. Would you suggest, as a remedy, something like inspectors of these houses, whose particular duty it should be to watch them?—Yes; men above the ordinary class of policemen, and above temptation.

3225. The duty which is now imposed upon the police is hardly fair; it is not sufficiently defined?—It is not; there is a great deal left to their discretion, and there is a good deal of difficulty in the way in which the law draws so fine a line between where a policeman may act, and where he may not act.

3226. Do you get any evidence from policemen upon the licensing day when any publican or beerseller has been convicted before?—We have it from the clerk of the magistrates. There is a general order which is given to the inspectors of police, that whenever an offender is brought before the magistrates, whether a beerhouse-keeper or a publican, any previous conviction shall be brought under the notice of the magistrates, and the same rule is adopted on applications for licenses.

3227. Has it occurred upon the third conviction to apply the law, and to inform the Excise of the fact, with the view to his licence being suspended?—Yes.

3228. Are you speaking of what you have actually directed yourself?—Yes; but the way in which it is evaded is this, that the man himself does not get the licence, but any other person gets it.

3229. Some person immediately connected with him gets the licence, so that the business goes on in the same house?—We have no means of knowing that the same man is or is not connected with the business that goes on in the same house.

3230. Mr. *Lowe*.] According to your experience, are the proprietors of public-houses careful as to the character of the persons they put into them?—Generally speaking, amongst the best class of brewers they are.

3231. Not otherwise?—No, I think not.

3232. Can you suggest anything that would improve the character of persons keeping public-houses?—No, I do not know that I can suggest anything; but I think if you increased the cost of the licence, and diminished the number, you would have the chance of getting persons of greater respectability.

3233. Would it not be possible to frame some regulation which should make it to the interest of the brewers to put people of good character into their houses?—I am not aware of any mode by which that could be done, unless the owner of the house was interested in the proper conduct of his tenant.

3234. Supposing that whenever a licence was taken away from a house, the house itself became disqualified from being kept as a public-house, would not that make it to the interest of the brewer to appoint persons to his house who would keep the house properly?—Yes, I think that would have a good effect.

3235. Mr. *Brown*.] Would it not have a good effect if bonds were taken for the good conduct of the house, and those bonds were put in suit by the Excise at once; assuming that the brewer became the bondsman for those parties, he would have to pay the penalty if the house were badly conducted?—I have no doubt upon the subject. I think it would tend to make the character of the keepers of public-houses better; it would prevent the facility with which they now get the licence renewed. We only want some law to be passed which would enable the bonds to be recovered. The general feeling at petty sessions with respect to bonds, where they are bonds for good behaviour, in cases of breaches of the peace, is merely to admonish the parties, and let them off. There is so much difficulty and hardship in recovering the bond that we seldom do it; but if that system were established and carried out, it would have a very good effect.

3236. Mr. *K. Seymer*.] I understand your proposal to be that beershops should be entirely abolished, and that the whole power of licensing houses for the sale of intoxicating liquors should be transferred to quarter sessions?—Yes.

3237. Do you think that would give satisfaction to the public?—With regard to the agricultural districts it would; in the town the Excise might answer. The difficulty, I apprehend, would be in getting objections stated before the Excise from country districts.

3238. Therefore in an agricultural country, for instance, you would vest in quarter sessions the whole power of licensing for the sale of intoxicating liquors?—Yes; and there is another reason, in towns the public-houses are much more narrowly

narrowly watched, because they are all close together, and there is a large body of police; in the country there are only four or five policemen to 2,000 or 3,000 inhabitants, spread over 50 square miles, therefore it is impossible to keep up a proper system of inspection.

R. Nelson, Esq.

16 June 1854.

Mr. *William James*, called in; and Examined.

3239. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business in Leeds?—I am Superintendent of Police.

Mr. *W. James.*

3240. With what purpose have you attended this Committee to-day?—I came to London this day week with the mayor of the borough of Leeds to attend the opening of the Crystal Palace; and I have been requested to attend here on behalf of the licensed victuallers.

3241. Upon what particular points do you wish to submit anything to the Committee with reference to the inquiry in which they are engaged?—Relative to the beerhouses, and particularly the amount of crime which is committed in those houses.

3242. You appear generally to give information with respect to the conduct of the beerhouses and public-houses in Leeds?—Yes.

3243. Will you state what opinion you have formed; whether they are well conducted, or are attended with any evil, or whether any amendment of the law is required with respect to them?—Perhaps I may say something upon the whole of these points; as to the way in which the houses are generally conducted, the amendments of the law, the way they obtain their licences, the amount of rating, and several points which affect the houses.

3244. Will you state any amendment of the present law which your experience enables you to suggest to this Committee; the Committee are well acquainted with the law with respect to the rating, and the different laws affecting both beerhouses and public-houses?—I think myself that the present system of licensing beerhouses is an exceedingly bad one. They get their licences from the Excise, and the magistrates have nothing whatever to do with them, unless they come to be a third time convicted, and then the licences are sacrificed; and even when the licence has been sacrificed I have known several cases in which the same house has been re-licensed, and if possible to a worse person; in fact it has been nothing better than a common brothel.

3245. If they are kept as common brothels, do not you, or some person connected with the police, inform against them?—Yes, I have informed against many where they have been convicted.

3246. What amendments in the law do you suggest in consequence of discovering those things?—I think it would very much improve the matter if the whole system of beerhouse-keeping was abolished, and a very great extension given to licensing by the magistrates. There are a very great number of highly respectable beerhouse-keepers, and wherever there was a respectable house, in every way eligible, and the wants of the neighbourhood required another licence, I would licence them the same in every respect; but many of those low, disreputable houses I would sweep off altogether.

3247. I understand you to say, that you would discontinue the system of applying to the Excise for licences, and you would extend the power of the magistrates so as to give them exclusively the control over all public-houses?—Yes.

3248. Sir *J. Pakington.*] You would abolish what are called beerhouses?—I would; and all those which really required to be licensed should be licensed by the magistrates, and then the magistrates would have additional control over the licences.

3249. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand that the beerhouses are the only houses with which you find fault?—Some of the licensed victuallers have committed themselves; but those cases are not as numerous as offences by the beerhouse-keepers.

3250. You mean in comparison?—Yes.

3251. Are the beerhouses more numerous than the public-houses in Leeds?—No.

3252. Mr. *Lowe.*] What are the numbers of the two descriptions of houses?—There are 353 beerhouses in the borough, and about 386 licensed public-houses.

Mr. *W. James.*

16 June 1854.

There are more offences committed by the former, though they are less in number than by the licensed houses.

3253. *Chairman.*] Are there not more restrictions upon the beerhouses than upon the licensed houses?—Only with respect to the hours of closing.

3254. Is not Sunday trading the principal offence of which they are guilty?—That is one amongst others. There are a great many offences at beerhouses; harbouring prostitutes and notorious thieves, and suffering them to concoct plans for robberies, and carrying them into effect.

3255. Are they often convicted for those offences?—Yes, and many are receivers of stolen property; I have found stolen property in their houses; even in an extensive cloth robbery I found a great portion of the cloth in his beer-barrels; I went down into the cellar, and the beerseller said, "These barrels contain bitter beer." I said, "Give me a pot, I am very fond of bitter beer; let me taste it;" and I found that the heads against the wall were out, and that they were filled with stolen cloth. The result was that the man was apprehended, and he was transported for 10 years.

3256. Mr. *Lowe.*] You do not call that a beerhouse offence?—No. There were thieves regularly assembled together. The man had been convicted several times for harbouring notoriously bad characters.

3257. *Chairman.*] Have you any statement of the proportion of offences committed by beerhouse-keepers and publicans?—Yes; in the year 1848 there were 13 beersellers and 11 licensed victuallers convicted; in 1849, 14 beersellers and 3 licensed victuallers; in 1850, there were 17 beersellers convicted, and 24 licensed victuallers; in 1851, there were 21 beersellers and 10 licensed victuallers; in 1852, there were 34 beersellers convicted, and 15 licensed victuallers; and in 1853, there were 46 beerhouse-keepers and 26 licensed victuallers convicted.

3258. Will you state the total number of convictions of beerhouse keepers, and the number of convictions of publicans?—One hundred and forty-five beer housekeepers, and 89 licensed victuallers.

3259. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Do you include the cloth robbery in that?—No; that is not a beerhouse conviction; there were other convictions against the same party.

3260. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] There is nothing to prevent respectable beerhouse-keepers applying for licences if they please, to the magistrates I presume?—No, and many do.

3261. Do they frequently do so?—Yes.

3262. Do they frequently succeed in obtaining licences?—Yes, I believe without a single exception, if they can make it apparent that the wants of the district require an additional licence they get it, provided the house itself is well adapted for that purpose; but many who apply for licences occupy houses which are not all adequate.

3263. Can you tell what the result has been with reference to the increase of licensed victuallers' houses?—That is a question which I did not expect to be asked; but I think from one to eight houses are licensed in a year at the annual special sessions.

3264. Is there a steady increase in the number of licensed houses?—I don't know, in the whole course of 23 years, an occasion upon which no licence has been granted.

3265. Mr. *Brown.*] Is it not a speculative opinion upon the part of the magistrates, whether a public-house is wanted or not; what means have they of judging of the wants of the community?—The persons intending to apply for a licence give six weeks' notice; during that six weeks, two or three magistrates are appointed to visit a certain district, and they go and examine the houses in the neighbourhood to see what the real wants require.

3266. How can they judge of its real wants?—They see by the number of houses, the number of inhabitants, the class of inhabitants, and the number of existing licensed victuallers which are already there.

3267. That is all a matter of opinion whether the wants of the public would not require more?—It is not a matter of opinion as to the number of people who reside in a neighbourhood, that is a fact.

3268. *Chairman.*] You have nothing to state against the licensed victuallers' houses, I think?—There are some solitary cases in which the licensed victuallers have not all conducted themselves properly. They have been brought before the magistrates, and fined sometimes for selling on the Sabbath-day during Divine service,

service, but very rarely indeed. They are very rarely convicted for harbouring notoriously bad characters; they will not suffer them to be in their houses; they have too much at stake to allow thieves and prostitutes, and such diabolical practices in their houses as the beerhouses allow.

3269. Some of them do not?—The great majority; there is no proportion to the others.

3270. Which do people drink most at Leeds, beer or spirits?—I think they drink more beer.

3271. Do many of these licensed victuallers' houses belong to the brewers?—There are very few brewers in Leeds; they nearly all brew their own beer.

3272. Do the beerhouse-keepers brew their own beer?—Some of the beerhouse-keepers brew their own, but very few in comparison with the licensed victuallers.

3273. Do the houses belong to respectable tradesmen in the town?—Yes; many beerhouses are taken by brewers, and re-let to persons to occupy them who have nothing whatever at stake.

3274. The brewer has nothing to do with the mode in which the house is conducted, so long as there is a good draught of beer?—That is all.

3275. Their object is, by any means to sell beer?—Yes; I should say that at least 19 out of 20 licensed victuallers brew their own beer.

3276. Do the houses belong to them?—Not a very great number; they are tenants of them, but they do not belong to the brewer.

3277. Mr. *Brown.*] Are there any licences taken out by individuals in Leeds who attend to other pursuits, and who do not attend to the house themselves?—The magistrates have a particular objection to that, and they will not suffer it if they know it.

3278. Is that the case with the beerhouses?—They have nothing to do with the beerhouses.

3279. Is it not the case that beerhouse licences are taken out, and that the house is occupied by the family of the party who has taken out the licence, he being a foreman, or in some way engaged in trade?—Yes; many of them are labourers.

3280. Sir *G. Goodman.*] You are now speaking of beerhouses?—Yes.

3281. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Is there much drunkenness amongst the working classes at Leeds?—I cannot say that there is. During Whit Monday I sat in the office to receive charges all night; and I think, if my memory serves me rightly, I had not one single person brought in drunk on Whit Monday evening. On the Saturday night previous to Whit Sunday and Whit Monday, the cases of two days came before the magistrates on Monday, and the whole of the charges for every kind of offence did not exceed 14 or 15, and out of that, only one-third were for being drunk.

3282. As the head of the police at Leeds, do you find in the course of the year that many cases of drunkenness are brought before you?—Yes.

3283. I think you have resided in Leeds a long time?—About 30 years.

3284. What is your opinion with regard to the state of the population now with respect to their inclination to get drunk; are they more sober than they used to be, or more drunken?—They are more sober now than they were some years ago. I have no hesitation at all in saying that last year our returns for persons being brought up on the charge of intoxication would not be so many by 500 as in the year 1836.

3285. You think that the morals of the people are improved with respect to drinking?—Yes.

3286. *Chairman.*] Did the people go out of Leeds on excursions on Whit Monday?—Yes; they went by tens of thousands to the Botanical Garden.

3287. Sir *J. Pakington.*] How long has that been established?—I could not exactly say; a good few years. Whit Tuesday is a sort of festival with the tetotallers; they go to the garden, and form a procession; an immense number of people go there. I had it from the person who took the money, that he received 300 *l.* that day for admissions, at 6*d.* apiece.

3288. Is it the practice of the people of Leeds to resort to the Botanical Garden on Sundays very much?—No; I was speaking of the holiday on Whit Tuesday.

3289. Is the Botanical Garden open on Sunday?—I believe it is so.

3290. Do the people pay for admission?—Yes.

3291. Do you think that the attraction of the Botanical Garden has anything to do with the diminished drunkenness of which you have spoken?—No; I do

Mr. W. James.

16 June 1854.

not know how it should, because they can get ale and porter at the garden. I do not know a single case which has been brought from that garden on the charge of intoxication.

3292. I suppose the labouring men who frequent that garden on Sunday, go there with their wives and families?—Yes, with their wives and families.

3293. They cannot go with their wives and families to the public-houses?—Yes, hundreds do in Leeds on Saturday night. It is as common as possible for a man with his wife and family to go to market, and they will go into some public-house in the neighbourhood and get a small glass of spirits, or a pint of beer, and then go home with their families.

3294. Do they go with their wives and families to the public-houses on Sunday?—No; they do to many of the respectable public-houses, in which the lodges of friendly societies are held, Odd Fellows, Foresters, Romans, and a great number of others which I cannot mention. They go to those lodge-rooms on Sunday evening with their wives and families, and enjoy themselves with a pint of beer or a glass of spirits and water.

3295. Are there many working men who frequent public-houses on Sunday, where no such lodges are held?—Yes.

3296. Do they take their wives and families with them?—In some instances they do. I should wish the Committee to understand that the public-houses in Leeds are different to the public-houses in London. The dram-shops, or what are called gin-palaces in London, are all closed as a matter of course on Sunday. There is generally one part of the house where they can go in and take their glass of grog or pint of beer; but the dram-shop, which is open on the other days, is not open at all on Sunday.

3297. Has there been much movement in Leeds lately, with reference to closing all the public-houses on Sunday?—I believe there was a meeting last Monday, but that is since I left home.

3298. Had there been much conversation in the place upon the subject before you left?—There was only the publication of the requisition calling the meeting. It was only at about two days before I left, and my attention was never much called to it.

3299. You do not know the views of the working classes or the publicans upon that subject?—I think the majority are in favour of having the public-houses open on the Sabbath-day.

3300. Mr. *Gregson.*] You say that the dram-shops are closed on Sunday?—Yes.

3301. Is that by a public Act?—No; it is by a voluntary agreement between themselves.

3302. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] What is the charge for admission to the Botanical Garden?—Sixpence.

3303. Is it a public garden or a private speculation?—The person who takes it pays so much a year for it. He leases it; and as he charges extra for it, of course it is a speculation.

3304. Was it made originally by the town council?—No.

3305. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is it a joint-stock company?—It belongs to Mr. Marshall, the flax spinner; he lets it.

3306. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Has the keeper of the Botanical Garden a spirit licence, or a beershop licence?—I am not aware that he has a spirit licence; but in many places of this sort, for instance, at the horticultural show, licensed victuallers go with wine, spirits, and beer, and the proprietors have nothing to do with it.

3307. Mr. *Gregson.*] Of what extent are those gardens?—They are very large.

3308. How many acres?—I do not know.

3309. *Chairman.*] Is it the custom of the people to go on excursions from Leeds on the Sunday?—Very many persons who are employed in the different merchants' warehouses, and in various other places all the week, will go perhaps to Harwood-bridge, and to different places in the neighbourhood, with a horse and gig, and take their wives and families with them.

3310. Do they go by railway?—Yes; but there are a great many private conveyances on the Sabbath-day. There are several houses on the way. For instance, if they went to Harwood-bridge, which is about nine miles, there is only one public-house, and if that was closed, I think it would be very oppressive towards the

the different parties who go there, because they could get no refreshments either for themselves or their horses.

3311. Do not the people amuse themselves much more by going on excursions now on Sunday than when you first knew Leeds?—There were no railways when I first went to Leeds, and no excursions on Sundays. There are not above two trains in and out on the Sabbath-day, where perhaps there are 20 or 30 in the week.

3312. Do you think that drunkenness has diminished only on Sunday, or generally speaking?—Generally speaking. We have not so much as we had. There is nothing like the drunkenness in Leeds that there is in Sheffield. I speak from the Criminal Returns.

3313. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Do you know Sheffield?—Yes; I lived there some years.

3314. Can you at all account for the great difference in drunkenness between Sheffield and Leeds?—Only in one way, that they work by piece, and do not work so much by the day; they are their own masters, and can play when they please. Using their own words, "A man working over a fire is a dry job, and we must have some beer."

3315. Mr. *Gregson.*] Are the wages generally higher in Sheffield than in Leeds?—Yes, in some branches; for instance, the grinders.

3316. Mr. *K. Seymer.* Have you observed an increase of intoxication when trade has been good?—Yes.

3317. Have you observed sufficiently to be able to state that, as a general rule, drunkenness increases when trade is good?—Yes, and crime increases; there is more robbery when trade is good than when trade is bad.

3318. *Chairman.*] Are you giving that opinion from any authority?—From my own knowledge.

3319. Are you prepared to establish such a statement as that?—Yes; I have no doubt I can convince you of the fact in two minutes.

3320. What sort of crime?—Robberies.

3321. When the people are well off, there are more robberies, you think?—Yes; if a man is an honest man he will not, although he is badly off, commit any robberies. The thefts are in good times, when a good many persons have more money about them; in bad times, when they have no money, they cannot rob them.

3322. Sir *J. Pakington.*] You mean that there is more to steal in good times of trade?—Yes; the men have money, and they put themselves in the way of being robbed.

3323. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you mean robberies from persons, and not from premises?—There are many robberies by confidential clerks and other parties; in consequence of so much business the merchants cannot look into their accounts; they have a great deal of money, and are not so particular about it; and the persons they employ are not so particular as they ought to be.

3324. *Chairman.*] Are the police sufficient in number in Leeds?—I think not, for Leeds.

3325. Are you the head of the police?—No; I am second in command.

3326. What is the number of the police in Leeds?—One hundred and forty-five.

3327. Who appoints the police?—The watch committee.

3328. Are the watch committee appointed by the corporation?—A portion of them.

3329. Do you know any of them that own public-houses?—No, I do not know one.

3330. Are they the persons who grant licences?—No; the local magistrates, some of whom are members of the corporation, and aldermen; but the great bulk of the magistrates are not in the corporation; they grant the licences at the special annual sessions; and there is always a good number present.

3331. What do you call the special annual sessions; is it a sessions specially for licensing?—Yes.

3332. Have you certain transfer days?—Yes, every six weeks.

3333. Are many licences transferred in the course of a year?—Yes, a good many; I think one great reason is, that many of the licensed victuallers do not find it answer, and they quit the employment, from the increase of beerhouses and temperance, and one thing or another; they find it does not answer their purpose; another person comes in who thinks he can make it do; he finds it out, and then he has to go. I think it is not a very good speculation now.

Mr. *W. James.*

16 June 1854.

3334. The magistrates are not very good judges as to the requirements of a district, to let in those people who are sure to fail?—They cannot take away a licence. I believe they get the very best information relative to the point that they are able to get; reports from the police as to the places in the neighbourhood, and the evidence of certain respectable persons as to the wants of the neighbourhood.

3335. Still they license more public-houses than can get a living?—I feel quite persuaded in my own mind that there are more than can get a living.

3336. You consider that the system ought to be uniform, and that a publican's business should be carried on under the same circumstances?—Yes.

3337. You think a man should not get a licence to sell beer, and another to sell beer and spirits both; but that they should get a licence from some competent authorities upon some certificate or assurance of good character?—They have no certificate. The magistrates will not transfer a licence without a certificate; but that is only signed by persons of the highest respectability, and they must be persons who know something about the individual to whom the licence is to be transferred.

3338. Do you mean that the magistrates inquire into the character of those persons to whom the licence is transferred?—They do invariably, and the certificate is produced, signed, before the licence is transferred. The certificate is handed round to us to see if we know the parties whose names appear in it.

3339. Mr. *Packe.*] Is the increase of robberies in good times principally in public-houses?—No, there are very few in them.

3340. Or in the beerhouses?—Neither.

3341. Where do they usually occur?—In the streets, low temperance hotels, gaming houses, and so on.

3342. Are there any in the public-houses and beershops?—Not often.

3343. *Chairman.*] Have you any theatre or concert-room, or saloons, or places of that kind, in Leeds?—We have the Theatre Royal, it is called the Old Theatre; and we have a new one, called the Prince's Theatre. They are both open in the season, not at the same time; and we have a casino.

3344. Does much mischief follow from those places of amusement?—From the casino, but not from the theatres, I think.

3345. Do people resort to them in great numbers?—Yes.

3346. Do they sell intoxicating liquors at those places?—They do, at the concert room and at the music-hall; whenever there is a concert there is always a refreshment room, and some licensed victualler attends. They do not sell it themselves, but some person has the supplying for the night, and you can be supplied with anything; but I do not know a single instance of a case of intoxication taking place at the music-hall.

3347. Are the people at Leeds very fond of music?—No doubt of it.

3348. You see no objections to licences being granted to those houses?—No, because they are always kept in very good order.

3349. Do those people get licences easily?—They do not want one; the casino is under a beerhouse licence; they have a sort of stage, and there is singing and gymnastics; there have been great complaints about its being a resort of juveniles, and its keeping them from their homes, incapacitating them from rising in the morning to go to their work.

3350. Could the magistrates put it down?—No.

3351. Could the magistrates refuse a licence to a theatre?—Yes.

3352. Under what Act?—There is a special sessions for granting licences to theatres; it is a similar sessions to that for granting licences to licensed victuallers; it is in the discretion of the magistrates whether they are licensed or not; they can refuse a licence without assigning any reason.

3353. Do you mean that such a place as the casino can be established without the interference of the magistrates, and that a regular theatre cannot be established; do you know under what statute the magistrates act?—I think it is an Act passed in the reign of the present Queen.

3354. Sir *J. Pakington.*] You say that you come here on behalf of the licensed victuallers of Leeds?—Yes.

3355. At their request?—Yes.

3356. How was that request conveyed, from a committee of their body, or a general meeting?—I was asked similar questions to what you have been asking.

3357. By

3357. By whom?—By a committee of the licensed victuallers' body, as to the exact state of affairs.

3358. The licensed victuallers' body in Leeds have a committee acting for them?—Yes, there is a society.

3359. Why did they select you?—Because I have been in Leeds police for 23 years; 21 years of that time as superintendent, and I sit all night, every night when I am at home, and all sorts of offences of every description committed within the borough must be brought to me; the borough of Leeds stands upon 30 square miles, and has 170,000 inhabitants; they thought I should be a competent person to know what was going on in the borough.

3360. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Are you required, upon the annual licensing day, to report all the convictions during the past year?—Yes; the reports are entered in a book and signed by me and the chief constable, which is laid before the magistrates assembled.

3361. A question has been put to you with reference to applications made to the magistrates; do the magistrates go to see the localities?—A certain number of them. Power is given to a certain number of magistrates, and they report to the other magistrates at the licensing day.

3362. *Chairman.*] Have you any other statements to make to the Committee?—I wish to mention something with reference to a beerhouse and a temperance house.

3363. Are you going to make a charge against any particular beerhouse?—Yes.

3364. Are you going to say anything which constantly occurs in beerhouses, or what results from the present state of the law?—Yes, it is what occurs in beerhouses. There was one particular house kept by some parties who now keep a beerhouse at the present time; but some eight or nine years ago a beerhouse was kept by a man of the name of James Holden. At this place there was a number of boys, say from 16 to 18 years of age, assembled of an evening after they had left the factories, and also young girls of corresponding ages, and it came to my knowledge, from private sources, that they were in the habit, 12 of them, of putting down a penny piece and then throwing dice in a basin or a milk bowl, and the one that threw the highest number was the winner of the prize, and that prize was, that he could select any of those girls and take her up stairs for prostitution. I succeeded in detecting them, and brought them before the magistrates, and they were fined 5*l.* each case.

3365. Do you mean to say that that practice went on for a considerable time, and yet as superintendent of police you never directed it to be suppressed?—A certain signal was given when the police appeared, and then when we got into the house all was right, and we could see nothing.

3366. May I ask you how you detected this practice at last?—I went in and got up stairs without notice being given, and I saw the dice thrown.

3367. What do you mean by saying that you went in without notice being given?—They had parties posted at the bottom of the stairs, and when the police came in sight those parties gave a signal, and they cleared away the dice and all the things, so that you could see nothing; when the police went up stairs there was nothing to be seen; but upon this particular occasion I got up stairs without a signal being given; I saw the dice thrown, and some of the parties appeared before the magistrates, and gave evidence as to what was really going on; they were convicted for harbouring notoriously bad characters and prostitutes.

3368. Then the conviction was for gaming, was it not?—No; prostitution and other disreputable acts; they were fined and could not pay the fine, and a distress warrant was levied; they were sold up, and the house was broken up, and the licence taken away; but now the same people are licensed again, and within nine months of this time they were convicted on one single day upon two informations; there were three others, but two only were laid, because it was considered to be unnecessary to try the others for harbouring prostitution in the shape of keeping domestic servants and similar things; we took those servants, and they gave evidence to that effect; the parties were convicted again, and still have the same beerhouse.

3369. Notwithstanding this conviction for these several offences which you have now named, they applied and got a licence?—Yes; they are now going on at this day.

3370. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] They only lost the licence in consequence of being sold up?—They have got a licence now.

Mr. W. James. 16 June 1854.

3371. They did not lose it as a punishment for any offence?—I do not know whether the magistrate said their licence was sacrificed, but they went and kept a brothel.

3372. Can the magistrates sacrifice a beerhouse licence?—They give notice to the Excise whenever there have been three convictions.

3373. *Chairman.*] Sometimes the magistrates give notice to the Excise of the number of convictions with respect to a house, although it is not kept by the same people?—Yes.

3374. Mr. *Brown.*] In the case you have mentioned, the house was kept by a person of the same name?—Yes, the same man, James Holden.

3375. *Chairman.*] You say the Excise must have had evidence of those parties having been convicted three times?—The Excise would have a certificate from the magistrates.

3376. Do you know, as a fact, that the magistrates did forward that notice to the Excise?—The magistrate's clerk would do that.

3377. Do you know whether it was done?—It was ordered.

3378. Do you know that it was ordered?—I know it was ordered; I heard the magistrate order it.

3379. The magistrates were aware of the state of the law, which required them to give notice to the Excise of three convictions?—Yes.

3380. How do you account for the Excise not having received it?—I presume that they did receive it.

3381. It has been stated before the Committee, that no such notice has been received by the Excise since the law has been in force; can you say that there have been many such cases?—Yes.

3382. Within what time?—I do not recollect one within these four or five years. I recollect several before that time.

3383. Why not lately?—I think a good deal arose in this way. It does not matter about a person being convicted once or twice before, unless the conviction is laid, after two previous convictions, as a third conviction. They must state it in the summons, if the information is laid, as being a third offence.

3384. Otherwise the magistrates have not legal evidence of its being a third offence?—No; in many cases, from that omission, the magistrates are prevented giving notice to the Excise.

3385. When the information is laid, do the magistrates ask whether it is the second or the third offence?—The summons states that before them.

3386. Is there any difficulty in getting legal evidence of previous convictions?—The convictions are filed at the quarter sessions; the document itself is evidence, and you have only to say that that is the person.

3387. Where is the difficulty of proving a third conviction?—There is none whatever.

3388. There is some error in the notice to the excise, because they do not get it if there are three convictions?—Perhaps the policeman who lays the information does not know that there has been a conviction two or three years ago; and very likely, in laying the information, it is not stated that an offence has been committed before.

3389. Is it not endorsed upon the licence?—We never see the licence.

3390. Do not the magistrates ask for the licence?—No.

3391. Is there not writing upon the back of the licence, stating that the man has been convicted?—I never saw a beerhouse licence before a magistrate in my life.

3392. Mr. *Gregson.*] Unless a previous conviction is stated in the summons before the magistrates, it has only the effect of a first conviction?—No; unless the conviction is tried as a third conviction, it is just the same as a first conviction. It is the same as a man being indicted for a felony, if a former offence is not mentioned in the indictment they cannot take any notice of it. I wish also to refer to temperance-houses; many of them are very low houses.

3393. *Chairman.*] What do you call a temperance-house?—A temperance coffee-house, where they sell tea, coffee, ginger beer, lemonade, and eatables. The one to which I wish to refer is a night house; it is open all night; the police have no authority, and there are continually disturbances caused by drunken men.

3394. Have you no authority to enter those houses when there is a disturbance?—Not unless they get fighting, and then you can take them into custody. You can take those persons to prison, and disperse the others as well as you can. With respect

respect to that very house, there has to be one policeman extra to the ordinary number to attend to that house altogether, because of the perpetual disturbances which are going on. A number of men congregate at that house, and then they get into the street and make disturbances.

3395. This is a house which has not a beer licence?—Yes. I thought, in making any new laws upon the subject, it would be very beneficial to the public if the coffee-houses were obliged to take a licence, to be granted by the magistrates, the same as licences are taken for the sale of game.

3396. Then you must go further, and give the police power to enter those places?—Yes.

3397. You do not consider that the police have power to go into those houses?—No.

3398. Where do you station the policeman with respect to the particular house you have mentioned?—In the street, so that he can have the house always in view. There are habits of the most disgusting description carried on there by robbers, prostitutes, and bad characters; men who can get drink no further in the public-houses and beerhouses go there, and have some coffee, and take the spirits and put it into the coffee, and get drunk even there.

3399. Mr. *Gregson.*] They cannot get spirits at that house?—They take it with them. I believe they can get spirits there, though I cannot prove it.

3400. At this temperance house you think they sell spirits?—I have no doubt of it, though I cannot prove it.

3401. *Chairman.*] If you were to do away with beerhouses, do not you think there would be more of those coffee-shops?—If they were registered upon the same principle as licensed victuallers there would be the same control over them, and they would be more responsible; now they can do just as they like.

3402. Mr. *Brown.*] Would you go so far as to licence every place of public entertainment, whether for refreshment or amusement?—With reference to any place such as a temperance coffee-house, to which the public or company resort, I think it would be a great advantage if it were to be licensed, and placed under the control of the magistrates. I cannot see that there would be any objection to licensing public gardens and places of public entertainment.

Mr. *William Spirett*, called in; and Examined.

3403. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business in Leeds?—I am Managing Clerk to Mr. Charles Naylor, a solicitor, Leeds, and secretary to the Licensed Victuallers' Association.

3404. You attend before the Committee to give evidence with respect to the law now regulating public-houses?—Yes.

3405. What do you wish to state to this Committee?—It is more especially with respect to the Sunday closing question.

3406. There has been a great movement in Leeds, for the purpose of closing public-houses for the remainder of the Sunday, has there not?—Yes, there has.

3407. You attend to convey an opinion to this Committee on behalf of the licensed victuallers?—Yes, and also of the public feeling manifested in the town of Leeds.

3408. You attend particularly on behalf of the licensed victuallers, as secretary to their association?—Yes.

3409. Are the Committee to understand that the licensed victuallers of Leeds object to the houses being closed on Sunday on the latter part of the day?—Yes; the after part of the day they do object to.

3410. The public-houses in Leeds are now open from one to three o'clock, and the publicans of that place object to their being closed afterwards?—They are open from half-past 12 to 3; and they are closed again until 4, and are opened at 4, and in the evening there is no fixed time for closing.

3411. What is the objection on the part of the publicans of Leeds to closing the houses for the rest of the evening on Sunday?—That it would greatly interfere with their business; the publicans have rights which have been acquired by Act of Parliament, and those rights have been enjoyed by them for years past; and in many places, more especially in the outskirts of the town, it would be ruinous to the licensed victuallers if their houses were closed on the Sabbath day.

3412. You are not distinguishing Leeds from other places; you say it has been

Mr. W. Spirett.

16 June 1854.

been their interest to carry on business in the outskirts of the town?—It would seriously injure their interests, and it would prevent the public having the enjoyment which they have at present, and which I submit they are entitled to.

3413. You would distinguish them from other tradesmen?—Yes.

3414. You would leave them the right to sell intoxicating liquors on Sunday, though butchers and bakers cannot sell the articles in which they deal?—Certainly.

3415. Is it so much the habit of the people of Leeds to drink on Sunday evening, that closing the public-houses would be attended with great inconvenience?—It is a source of enjoyment to many persons to meet their friends; and public-houses, as well as other places, are opportunities afforded to them for that purpose, as well as affording an opportunity for the development of ideas.

3416. It is not for the purpose of preventing enjoyment that many people are anxious to close public-houses on Sunday, I presume, but from certain evils which flow from drinking intoxicating liquors on Sunday evening; are you prepared to say that those evils do not occur?—Evils do occur, I am afraid; but greater evils will occur if the public-houses are closed.

3417. What evils occur at present?—Occasionally persons get drunk, and that is an evil; but these are the exceptional cases. I consider it is an abuse of the privilege which they enjoy on the Sabbath, or any other day to get drunk.

3418. Do you dispute the fact that there is a great deal of drunkenness in Leeds?—I cannot say that there is a great deal of drunkenness in Leeds.

3419. Is there much drunkenness on Sunday evening?—Very little indeed.

3420. Do you mean that there is less on Sunday evening than on week days?—I think there is.

3421. Can you give any reason why Leeds is different from other places in that respect; the reason generally assigned is, that people have leisure and more money in their pockets on Sunday evening, and therefore there is more drunkenness?—I think, in Leeds, the publicans, at any rate the licensed victuallers, are a class of people who are respectable, and they have regard to their own respectability, as well as to the respectability of the parties who visit their houses; and they will not permit people to abuse the privileges which they enjoy, by getting drunk on Sunday.

3422. We have heard that the beerhouses are in greater numbers than the licensed victuallers, and that therefore the people have access to intoxicating liquors on Sunday, although the respectable licensed victuallers will not allow persons to get drunk in their premises; I wish you to confine yourself to the statement which you made, that there is less drunkenness on Sunday than on other days in Leeds?—I do not know that there is less drunkenness, and I do not know that there is more drunkenness; Leeds is a great exception as to drunkenness; I do not think there is much in Leeds, as a manufacturing town.

3423. Are the Committee to understand that there is not less drunkenness on Sundays than on other days?—If I understand by "drunkenness" people getting drunk, there is less; I do not consider if a man goes to the public house and gets a pint of beer, and leaves that house, that that is to be considered drunkenness.

3424. Is it the fact or not, that people resort in large numbers to these drinking houses in Leeds on Sunday?—It is a fact that they go to those houses.

3425. The proposition is to close those houses, because evils arise from it; the men spend their wages at public-houses, instead of with their families?—They necessarily spend money when they go public-houses, and if those places were closed other abuses would follow, and, perhaps, be the means of spending more money.

3426. As far as the Committee understand from you, those evils do not follow?—They do not; the people of Leeds think it is a privilege which they are entitled to, and which they ought not to be deprived of.

3427. When did you come from Leeds?—Last Wednesday.

3428. Has any public meeting taken place upon this subject at Leeds?—Yes.

3429. Were you present?—Yes.

3430. It was a meeting convened by persons anxious for the closing; was it numerously attended?—It was.

3431. Did any persons attend in the interest which you are representing to oppose the resolutions proposed by the requisitionists?—There were many attended upon both sides of the question.

3432. Did the mayor preside?—He did.

3433. How long did that meeting last?—About two hours.

3434. Was the subject discussed on both sides?—Yes.

3435. By those who advocated the closing of public-houses?—Yes.

3436. Did any publicans attend the meeting and speak against it?—Only one innkeeper spoke against the Sunday closing.

3437. Who was the other man that spoke?—I was one.

3438. You spoke against the closing?—I did.

3439. What was the result of the meeting?—The result of the meeting was a mass of confusion. The meeting was so numerously attended, that the parties got disarranged; there were boards upon both sides of the question, and both boards were held up at the same time. I can scarcely say that it was a fair test of opinion; I have no doubt at all that a very large majority attended that meeting, at the commencement of it, who were in favour of keeping public-houses open on the Sabbath day.

3440. Did the arguments which you used convert them?—I cannot say whether they converted them or not.

3441. You said that at the beginning they were of an opposite opinion?—Many went away during the discussion from the circumstance that a gentleman, who is rather an unpopular man, got up, and said what the people did not wish to hear; they went away in hundreds.

3442. What was the opinion of the mayor when he came to decide upon the resolution?—His opinion was that the meeting was in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday.

3443. So that, in fact, a resolution in favour of the closing of public-houses on Sunday was carried at this vast meeting at Leeds?—That was the declaration of the mayor.

3444. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Was it only the friends of keeping the public-houses open on Sunday who went away in consequence of this unpopular speech; were they all on one side?—That I cannot say; there were a great many went away. The way in which I gather the opinion of the meeting is from the way in which, when parties were speaking, they were either applauded or otherwise. Upon one occasion the hands were held up for Sunday closing, and also against Sunday closing. When the hands were first held up against Sunday closing, there was a very large majority of the meeting. The question was not put by the mayor, but was put by a person who was present; and after that I understood that many people thought there would be no more division, and that was the reason why many people left.

3445. How happened it that there was a show of hands taken at the beginning which was not called for by the chairman?—It was for the purpose of putting down this person who was annoying the meeting; they would not hear a word he had to say, and parties were anxious to decide what they had come about.

3446. In what way was a division demanded by the chairman?—It was done by a board.

3447. What do you mean by its being done by a board?—A board was held up, which had on it, "Hold up both hands."

3448. *Chairman.*] Not by the direction of the mayor?—No.

3449. Sir *J. Pakington.*] At the close of the meeting, the mayor took a show of hands?—Yes.

3450. Were you present then?—Yes.

3451. Which way was the majority of hands then?—Both boards were held up at the same time; the mayor invited the meeting to a show of hands for Sunday closing, and at the time he invited them to do that, both boards were put up. There was a very large majority, because both parties were holding up their hands together.

3452. That is the way in which you account for the majority in favour of Sunday closing?—Yes.

3453. *Chairman.*] Did any independent person, that is to say, any person not connected with the licensed victuallers, speak against the Sunday closing?—Yes.

3454. What sort of a man was he?—I did not know the gentleman; I think his name was Oxley.

3455. Did any working man take that side?—Yes, he was a working man.

3456. Mr. *Brown.*] Was there a vote of thanks to the mayor at the end of the meeting?—Yes.

3457. Therefore it must have been considered by all parties that he had acted fairly

Mr. W. Spirett.

16 June 1854.

fairly in that decision?—I do not know. I think two-thirds of the meeting had left when the vote of thanks was carried.

3458. Mr. *Gregson.*] Where was the meeting held?—In Cloth Hall Yard.

3459. What number of persons were present?—I should think at the commencement there were from 20,000 to 30,000.

3460. *Chairman.*] You never saw so large a meeting at Leeds?—I never saw so large a meeting at Leeds.

3461. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Did it consist of the working classes?—Tradesmen and working men; a majority of working men.

3462. *Chairman.*] Did any man address the meeting who was thought not to be quite sober?—I am not aware.

3463. Was not there a man addressed the meeting who was not thought to be quite sober?—I am not aware. I cannot tell what parties might think. I do not think that was the case myself.

3464. Mr. *Gregson.*] When the mayor directed one board to be held up, was another held up?—There were several boards. The misfortune arose from the circumstance of the parties having the custody of the boards misunderstanding what the mayor put to the meeting. I cannot say how this happened, but it is a fact that both boards were held up at the same time, and both parties were showing hands at the same time.

3465. Was not some officer present under the direction of the mayor to put up those boards?—No.

3466. *Chairman.*] I take it for granted, that before the mayor decided, one set of hands were put down?—He decided upon a show of hands when both boards were held up; the resolution which he put to the meeting was, "Those who are in favour of Sunday closing will hold up both hands;" and at the time he took the show of hands, boards were held up by both parties.

3467. Mr. *Brown.*] The boards were used, I presume, because the people would not hear his voice?—It was impossible.

3468. Mr. *Ker Seymer.*] Was a division taken upon the other question afterwards?—The meeting was one mass of confusion; there was no regular vote taken after that.

3469. Did not the mayor put the negative afterwards?—Yes.

3470. Were both boards held up then?—I think not.

3471. Then one board was held up, and only those voted who were against Sunday closing?—I cannot say that; the difficulty arose from both boards having been held up. I heard many parties say afterwards, who were both for and against Sunday closing, that it was a complete confusion; they did not know what they were doing; it created such confusion in the meeting, that rendered it impossible for persons to hear what the mayor had to say, and the people did not know what they were doing in consequence.

3472. *Chairman.*] You do not know of any other working man who spoke besides Mr. Oxley?—I think there was a working man spoke for Sunday closing, of the name of Campbell.

3473. You have no doubt that Campbell spoke?—Not at all; I am not aware what his business is.

3474. Is there any doubt that he was described as a working man?—I did not hear anything but "Mr. Campbell;" I am sure I have no recollection of any further description being given.

3475. You say you are secretary of the Licensed Victuallers' Association; what number of licensed victuallers does that association include?—Two hundred and fifty-three or 254.

3476. Out of how many?—About 373.

3477. Did they hold a meeting before this general meeting was held?—They did.

3478. Were you appointed to speak on their behalf?—No, I was not.

3479. You volunteered a speech?—I did; I volunteered to offer my sentiments; I am totally disinterested in the question, except as an inhabitant of the borough. It was upon public grounds more especially, and because I considered the movement an improper interference with the rights of the public.

3480. You have stated that the publicans in this association are united upon this matter, against closing their houses on Sunday afternoon?—I do not know an exception.

3481. Are there not some who would just as soon have their houses closed on Sunday as other tradesmen, wishing to have leisure for themselves?—I am not aware of an exception.

3482. As

3482. As far as I understand, you have been appointed by the licensed victuallers of Leeds, to come to this Committee to state to them that they object to closing their houses on Sunday, as being very injurious to their interests?—They do object. I also come on public grounds; I think the public would object, and I think, if necessary, the public would manifest that objection, either by petition or otherwise; because this Sunday closing is agitated by a party who would really close the public-houses every day in the week. I do not think those are proper parties to agitate the question. I think if public opinion was tested upon it, it would determine that it was an interference with the rights enjoyed by the people, and which ought not to be interfered with. I would deprecate as much as any man the abuse of the Sabbath-day.

3483. Has there been any petition against Sunday closing from Leeds?—No.

3484. Do you know anything of the petition in favour of Sunday closing from Leeds?—I know there has been a petition.

3485. Do you know anything about the signatures to the petition?—No.

3486. Do you know that 18,000 people signed it?—I have heard that a great number did sign it; but it has been obtained in a very peculiar way by the teetotallers at their meetings; they got parties to sign it. The petitions have been at the religious places of worship for signature. You will find that many parties who signed that petition had no real opinion at all upon the question. Many of those signatures would be of juvenile parties, who could not have arrived at that maturity of age to be able to entertain the proposition.

3487. Have you any reason to doubt the signatures being genuine?—I have no reason to doubt the signatures being genuine.

3488. You have no reason to believe that they signed, not knowing what they were signing; you are speaking generally of the mode in which petitions are sometimes signed, and not particularly about this petition; you know nothing of it, and have no reason to suppose that it is not perfectly genuine?—No; but signatures were obtained from juvenile bodies in the way I have suggested.

3489. You have no reason to suppose that they are the signatures of juveniles?—I know that a great many juveniles, such as scholars in schools, have signed the petition. The petition has been sent round to the various schools in Leeds and in the district, and has been signed by the scholars.

3490. As the closing of public-houses on Sunday is likely to be a great public inconvenience, as you state, and as there has been a great movement upon the subject at a meeting presided over by the mayor, do you know of any reason why no petition has been presented by the persons who are against Sunday closing?—We do not think that the time has arrived for Parliament to be petitioned upon that question. There is no Report as to whether or not this Committee would recommend the closing of public-houses on the Sabbath-day. I have no doubt, if such a Report is presented to The House for closing public-houses on the Sabbath-day, there will be a general rising throughout the country, and petitions will be tenfold in number to what you have in favour of closing on the Sunday.

3491. Do you know that petitions are being presented to the House of Commons in favour of closing, in great numbers?—Yes.

3492. You know that there was this very large meeting held in Leeds upon the subject, but you do not think that the time has come for presenting any counter petition; is that what the Committee are to understand?—Yes. If there were any Bill in the House for the purpose of closing public-houses on Sunday, I have no doubt you would find petitions presented against it, and far more numerously signed than those for it.

3493. Sir *J. Pakington.*] As far as you know, all the publicans in Leeds are unanimous in their opposition to Sunday closing?—I am not aware of a single exception in Leeds.

3494. *Chairman.*] Have you anything to do with the beer sellers?—No.

3495. Did any beer sellers appear at this meeting?—I cannot say.

3496. Did anybody appear for the beer sellers?—Certainly not to speak.

3497. You do not know of any part taken against Sunday closing by the beer sellers?—No.

3498. Is there anything else which you wish to state to the Committee?—It has occurred to my mind, from what has been stated by a gentleman who has been examined previously as to places of amusement and recreation being open on Sunday, that there could not be the slightest objection to it; and whilst there cannot be the slightest objection to it, there cannot be an objection to parties having rational enjoyment, such as meat and drink. You will find it to be the

Mr. *W. Spirett.*

16 June 1854.

case that if parties go to Chatsworth, or anywhere else, if they have the opportunity of getting anything to drink they behave themselves in a reasonable manner. Sir Joseph Paxton says there is very little drunkenness on such occasions, and therefore when they have the facility of getting drink, they do not get drunk, and abuse the privilege, but take it in a reasonable way.

3499. You are an advocate for increasing the number of such places, and you would throw them open on Sunday?—I am an advocate for extending licensed victuallers' houses. I would entirely abolish beerhouses.

3500. I ask your opinion as to the propriety of extending the opening of places of recreation on Sunday?—Yes, I am quite an advocate for that. I think it is desirable that a working man should have as much opportunity afforded to him for enjoyment as possible.

3501. You were going on to say, as secretary of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, that the beer sellers should not get their licenses in the way they get them now?—I think there is a great evil in parties getting licenses in such an easy way. There is no inquiry either into their character or responsibility, and great abuses are made of the licenses so granted.

3502. Have you any suggestion to make to the Committee with respect to beer sellers; would you not allow them to get licenses any more?—I would allow them to get licenses if their character and position would justify the magistrates in granting them licenses.

3503. Would you compel every beer seller to go before the magistrate to get his license?—I would.

3504. Do you think the beer sellers would approve of that?—I am afraid not, the majority would approve of it.

Mr. *Reginald John Richardson*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *R. J. Richardson.*

3505. *Chairman.*] YOU reside at Manchester, I believe?—I do.

3506. What is your business?—Land surveyor and building surveyor.

3507. How long have you lived at Manchester?—Forty-five years.

3508. You have been very much connected with the working classes and their amusements?—In every movement that has taken place amongst the working classes since I can remember.

3509. You are well acquainted with their habits in connexion with those movements?—I am.

3510. And with their amusements?—With all their amusements.

3511. Have you observed any change of late years in the habits of the people?—Within the last eight or 10 years I think they have improved very considerably indeed, both in their habits of sobriety and general temperance and cleanliness.

3512. You refer to a period when they were much less decent in their manners and habits than they are now; can you connect that with any change that has taken place?—Yes; about 10 years ago, there was a considerable movement made in the town for the purpose of purchasing land whereby to construct public parks and public walks. It was thought at the time by almost every class of the population that it would be a very desirable thing for the purpose of elevating the condition of the working classes. The rich came forward very munificently with their gifts; the working classes subscribed in their workshops, among their social circles, for the purpose of promoting the object, and a large sum of money was raised, sufficient to purchase land for three parks; it was not sufficient to purchase land for the whole wants of the town, but sufficient for three; those three parks were purchased; one was called Philips's Park, it was bare land broken, and made into a park; that is on the north-east side of the town; it is situated in what is commonly known as the New Cross district, or New Cross Ward, in Manchester, which is peopled by the inhabitants, principally factory workers; what we might almost term some of the lowest class of operatives in Manchester; and it was thought that they had most need of a public park, inasmuch as they were engaged from half-past five in the morning until six or seven, and sometimes eight at night, in the cotton manufactories and workshops, and had very little time for recreation; what little time they had, it was thought better employed in such places as were of a recreative quality and usefulness.

3513. The park was established?—Yes.

3514. I think you referred to two others?—Another park on the northern side of the town, called the Queen's Park, about a mile and a half from the other, was made

made out of a gentleman's estate, called Hendham Hall. It was already a park, and very little was required to make it immediately useful to the public. This park was purchased, and opened in form by the civil authorities. It is situated in what is commonly termed St. Michael's Ward, which is also peopled by the working classes, and generally the lower description of people; I might say, principally Irish, who require more public parks than anybody else. The third park was established in Salford, upon the estate of Larkhill, formerly in the possession of William Garnett, Esq., and it was purchased, and a large portion of land was added to it for play-grounds. This park is considered, I believe, the most useful, as being the most populously situated.

3515. Is that what is called the Peel Park?—Yes.

3516. Is that the one Sir Robert Peel subscribed to?—Yes, Sir Robert Peel subscribed 1,000 *l.*, the Earl of Ellesmere 1,000 *l.*, and others in similar proportion; also many of the Manchester gentlemen subscribed their 100 *l.* and 500 *l.* to it; and since that time there have been museums and a public library established there.

3517. In the park?—Yes, in what is termed the hall of the original mansion. It was first of all used as a refreshment-room; subsequently that was removed below, and the whole building has been converted into a public library. The books are read inside, and not lent out. Since then the rich gentlemen of Salford and Manchester have come forward, and subscribed to erect another large building adjoining that for a public museum, which is very well furnished, and stored with almost every kind of natural curiosity, and very much used by the public. All those parks have been established within 10 years.

3518. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is free admission open to all, without any payment?—Yes, there is no payment whatever, excepting in Philips's Park. I might state that there are fish-ponds, well stored with fish, for which a charge of a shilling a day is made to anglers. I do not think it is meant for any profit.

3519. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Are those three parks about the same size?—No; the Peel Park is larger than the others.

3520. What number of acres are there in the largest park?—I do not recollect now.

3521. Are they very extensive?—They are very extensive indeed; Peel Park contains more lawn for cricketing.

3522. Whereabouts would be the size of Peel Park; would it be 100 acres or 500 acres?—Not so much as that; about 23 or 24 acres.

3523. That is the largest?—Yes, that is the largest park.

3524. *Chairman.*] What is the influence of those parks upon the working classes?—The influence has been very great, inasmuch as they have drawn them from public-houses and beerhouses, and also out of the streets. It used to be a custom when I was a boy, for the young men to stand at the corners of streets, sometimes for mischievous purposes, sometimes for insulting people passing along, sometimes for the purpose of hatching crime; at all events, they were considered a very great nuisance. These scenes are seldom now; in the evening they go to the Peel Park, or to Philips's Park, or to the Queen's Park; and on Sunday, instead of loitering in the fields, dog-fighting, playing at pitch-and-toss, or being in the beerhouse, they go to some of those parks, they are also induced to dress better for the purpose of appearing in those parks.

3525. Is any drink sold in those parks?—None but ginger-beer and lemonade, and soda water.

3526. Are intoxicating liquors prohibited?—Yes. By a covenant the original promoters of the parks caused a clause to be inserted in the deed, conveying the park land to the authorities of the town. The clause runs to the effect, that no intoxicating liquor shall be sold within the precincts of the parks. This covenant gives to the corporation of Manchester two parks, and to Salford one.

3527. No doubt, before the parks were opened, there was a great deal of drunkenness?—Yes.

3528. Do you believe that these parks, by congregating great masses of people on Sunday, leads to drunkenness afterwards?—No; although a great number of beerhouses have been established upon the road, for a speculation, to encourage people to come and drink, I do not think they do. I have paid some attention to the amount of business, particularly with regard to the value of the property. The nearest public-house is a quarter of a mile away.

3529. Did you say that the Peel Park was the park resorted to the most?—Yes.

Mr. *R. J. Richardson.*

16 June 1854.

Yes. The main lines of road between Manchester, Liverpool, and Bolton contain a large population, continually passing backward and forward. I do not think the parks do much good to the public-houses. My authority is the publicans themselves; they say, "We wish the parks were closed." When the parks were originated they condemned everything and everybody connected with the parks. If you asked them for a subscription, they said, "Of course not; we wish they were shut up." And, indeed, the public-houses and beerhouses along the line of road do not sell for so much as they did. I have occasionally to value them.

3530. You are speaking from your experience, as a surveyor, that the public-houses on the roads to those parks do not sell for as much as before the parks were opened?—They do not.

3531. Mr. *Brown.*] You have had the valuing of some of them?—I am appraiser for the Hundred of Salford. I am sometimes called in to value the houses between the purchaser and the vendor. I find there is an objection raised, that business is not so good as it used to be. The consumption is not so great as it used to be. Sometimes it is urged, that it is on the way to the park. They can get to know how much the consumption is without any advantages of that sort.

3532. *Chairman.*] It is a generally recognised thing that the park has such an influence upon the people that they do not resort to the public-house?—Yes.

3533. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Do you attribute that diminished value to the more sober habits of the people, or does it arise in any degree from the number of houses having increased?—I think the people stay in the park as long as they can; when they have done in the park they go home. In the summer time they stay in till half-past nine. The time of closing is regulated according to the season. They stay in at all events till dusk, and they go home. It is a positive fact that in Manchester you cannot, in the theatres and public places, get people to stop very late. Most of them have to be up by half-past five in the morning very promptly, which makes them very particular as to time at night.

3534. Has the number of beershops and public-houses increased of late years?—Yes, owing to the increased size of the town.

3535. Do you mean the increased population?—Yes.

3536. *Chairman.*] Did you say that the Museum and Free Library were open on Sunday?—The Museum and Free Library are not open on Sunday.

3537. Are they in the park?—In the main building of the park, what was commonly termed the refreshment-room. I think it is generally desired that they should be open on Sunday.

3538. What effect would that have?—A very good effect upon the working classes, there is such a tendency to go to other places of a similar sort. Since the agitation in favour of opening the Crystal Palace on Sunday has been on foot, it has drawn out the question of opening the Peel Park and Library.

3539. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Have you any lending library?—Yes; in Manchester.

3540. Is that open on Sunday?—No; that is a question which has been before the committee, as to the propriety of opening it and the news-room on Sunday; not to lend out the books: I think, without imputing any motives, they would be open but for a church being within 50 yards.

3541. The news-room in that building is not open on Sundays?—No; the Athenæum news-room is open.

3542. *Chairman.*] Do you believe the people would go into the news-room in preference to the public-house, if the news-room was open on Sunday?—Yes; I can hear by conversation that they would rather have the Crystal Palace open on Sunday as well as the Peel Park Museum and Library.

3543. Mr. *Gregson.*] At what hour is the Peel Park open on Sunday morning?—There is a standing rule that it shall be open from sunrise to sunset; the porter has instructions to that effect.

3544. *Chairman.*] You say you have observed a tendency in people, whenever any place is open on Sunday of innocent recreation, to avail themselves of it?—Yes; I am connected in various ways with the working class; I see their operations; I have generally found them away from their homes on Sunday, particularly if it is fine; on inquiry I find they are gone to the parks, or they are gone on a Sunday jaunt in a Whitechapel or a dog cart, or gone a walk into some suburban village. It is the constant habit of the people of Manchester to visit the villages round the town on Sunday; they are so confined during the week days at their work, that they feel let loose on the Sunday, and wish for fresh air and exercise.

3545. Those are not the class that are particularly drunken on the Sunday?—No;

No; but it has its effect upon that class; it draws them out; one good man draws a fellow workman out with him; perhaps the next Sunday he has to get better clothes to appear decent.

3546. Mr. *Gregson.*] Are the churches well attended on Sunday?—I attend myself, and I see very little diminution in the parish church I attend; but there are great complaints; I think they are not well founded.

3547. *Chairman.*] What do you mean by "great complaints"?—About the parks being open upon Sunday, among religious communities.

3548. Mr. *Gregson.*] Are the churches as well attended now as they were previously to the opening of those parks?—Yes; and the Wesleyan chapels are much the same.

3549. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Do the working class, as a body, attend church or chapel on Sunday?—No, I should say not; otherwise there would be much more of the religious class in Manchester, and more churches and chapels; there are above a quarter of a million of people at Manchester.

3550. *Chairman.*] If there were any other places of amusement opened equal to the three parks, are you of opinion that the people would resort to them in preference to more degrading pursuits?—There are what we call the public tea gardens; there are two very large ones; the one contains about 11 or 12 acres; the other contains about 30 to 40; one is called the Bellevue Gardens; the other the Pomona Gardens; the Bellevue is the largest.

3551. What sort of places are they?—The Bellevue contains a zoological collection, and also a museum; that is open on Sunday; the public can go there and see those collections.

3552. Do they sell drink?—They pay 6*d.* for admission, which is returned in refreshments; they give them anything to the value of 6 *d.*, spirituous liquor, or ale, or porter, or ginger beer, cakes, and pies, and anything of that kind.

3553. Is there any drunkenness there?—I have been in the habit of attending those places myself, and I think I can safely say, I have not for many years past seen half-a-dozen drunken persons.

3554. That is where the zoological collection is shown?—Yes; I am speaking of both the Pomona Gardens and the Bellevue; there is very little drunkenness indeed. Sometimes, when a cheap trip goes from the country the people get rather excited, but I think the townspeople you will not find that way inclined. The Bellevue Gardens are two miles or more from the town, and it is a long way to walk in that state if they become intoxicated. Another reason is, that they have only 6*d.* to spend; very often the small wages earned by the operatives at Manchester do not leave them much to spare.

3555. Have you made any calculation as to the number of persons who resort to the parks and tea-gardens in the course of Sunday?—Taking Whit Sunday, I should say there would not be less than from 20,000 to 30,000 in the three parks, and I should say not less than from 7,000 to 8,000 in the two public gardens.

3556. Is that enough to crowd the parks?—No; the parks are very large.

3557. That is a small number compared to the whole population; how do you account for more not going?—Dunham Park, belonging to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington is open on Sunday. There are many little villages round Manchester which are peculiarly adapted for Sunday walks, and are laid out for it, such as the village of Eccles, where they sell a kind of cake and ale, which is peculiar to that neighbourhood. There are many other places of a similar sort to which there are cheap trips, particularly on Whit Sunday; and those places take a great part of the population away.

3558. Are there any public places of entertainment in the town open on Sunday?—None but the two gardens I have mentioned, and a few smaller ones.

3559. Do you believe there would be any mischief if there were such places as music rooms and concert rooms open on the Sunday?—There is no music in those gardens on Sunday.

3560. Is there any music at other places?—At the music rooms or saloons.

3561. Do they do any harm?—I do not go into them myself. I have rather a conscientious view upon that subject; but from what I have heard (and I have made some inquiry previously to coming here), I find that people of both sexes visit those places, instead of standing, as they used to do, at the corners of the streets. They very often call there after they have had their afternoon or evening's walk; but I have not heard of anything of an immoral tendency.

3562. Those places are an improvement upon what used to be the case?—Decidedly

Mr. *R. J. Richardson.*

16 June 1854.

Decidedly so. I look upon it as being a great improvement, for this reason, that formerly they used to visit the tap-rooms of public-houses, and there used to be singing hymns and psalms carried on in the public-houses, but the police put it down very properly.

3563. What made them sing psalms at the public-houses?—Because it was Sunday. It was very horrifying, to the religious people particularly, to hear it; they complained, and the police put a stop to it. The magistrates would have taken the licences away from the public-houses, and the beerhouses would have been called disorderly.

3564. Is there no singing at the public-houses now on Sunday?—No. There is organ, harmonium, and seraphina music, and things of that sort.

3565. Mr. *Gregson.*] I presume many of these people were not sober when they were singing psalms and hymns on Sunday?—They considered they were making an apology for keeping the Sabbath by singing psalms; they thought it would be better if they were to sing psalms, and not songs.

3566. *Chairman.*] Do you superintend any gardens at Manchester now?—As regards the superintendence of the plans and the works, nothing more than that.

3567. Do you know anything of a calculation which has been made lately of the number of persons who attend spirit vaults on Sunday?—Some years ago I made a return for Sir Charles Shaw on behalf of the Government. I recently took one particular vault in Deansgate; I had not time to take more, and I found there were less frequenting that one spirit vault than had been on the former occasion.

3568. Of what year are you speaking?—1847.

3569. Have you seen a recent calculation of the number of persons frequenting those places?—Yes. I saw one which Dr. Hudson presented to this Committee.

3570. There has been one made more recently of the number of persons going into public-houses on Sunday?—I have not seen that. The statement which I made the one before I make now, that there were upon one Sunday 170 or 180 less, that was for the week after Whitsuntide, when probably they had less money to spend.

3571. Is it your opinion, that when the people have more money to spend they get more drunk?—In the spirit vaults they do. I think on the whole there is a tendency to provident habits amongst the people; there are more schools and a better system of education. There are more facilities for acquiring knowledge, and a greater circulation of cheap publications than there used to be. Every tendency in the working classes is considerably to improve themselves; of course in all societies you will find some very bad.

3572. Still there is a great deal of drinking carried on?—Yes.

3573. You have no doubt of drunkenness being the chief cause of crime in Manchester?—Drunkenness is the principal cause of crime. We find, unfortunately, when the times are good, and the people have plenty of money, that crime is very prevalent; it is an unfortunate thing, but it is so. There are other sources of crime which result from bad times, such as prostitution, which is carried on to a fearful extent in Manchester, for an inland town.

3574. Is not it admitted by the working classes that drunkenness is the cause of their ruin in many cases?—Yes.

3575. Are they not in consequence rather disposed to advocate the closing of public-houses on Sunday?—I have not heard, although a public meeting was called in Manchester, any wish expressed that the public-houses should be closed on Sunday.

3576. Have you heard of any meeting being called to prevent their being closed, or any strong opinion being expressed by working people against it?—No; only from my personal connexion. Their view is this; they have no objection to the houses being closed during the morning part; they are open now from the middle of the day, that is to say, from one to three; they have no objection to their being closed then; many publicans have no objection to it.

3577. During what time would they be ready to have the public-houses closed on Sunday?—From one to three.

3578. Are they of opinion that they should be farther closed, by closing them those two hours for instance?—I believe that to be their opinion; that they should not be opened till later in the afternoon.

3579. Why are they of that opinion?—They think they have a tendency to prevent moral and intellectual improvement.

3580. They

3580. They are conscious of some evil from the opening of those houses on Sunday?—Yes; their consciousness arises from respect to religious motives I conceive.

3581. Mr. *Gregson.*] At what hour on Sunday afternoon would you have them open?—They should be generally open the after hours of Divine service, or at five o'clock.

3582. If they are closed from one to three, you would wish them to be open from five o'clock for the remainder of the evening?—Yes.

3583. Mr. *Brown.*] Would not less evil arise to the morals of the people if they were opened from one to three, and shut the rest of the evening; do not you think opening them in the middle of the day would be better?—I think not; if they were kept closed till after service time it would be quite sufficient.

3584. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do not the people get more drunk in the evening than in the middle of the day?—There is not so much drinking on Sunday, I think; the people frequent the parks, and avail themselves of the cheap trips which carry them away into the country. We are in Manchester peculiarly situated; we close our commercial business on Saturday afternoon at one or two o'clock, and the young unmarried men go to Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, and to other places cheaply; they can go for one fare there and back, and come back on Sunday evening. This removes from Manchester a large portion of the population on Sunday.

3585. Mr. *Gregson.*] You said that there were cheap trips from Manchester on Sunday; what did you mean by that?—What people call a Sunday trip, going in the morning and returning late in the evening.

3586. *Chairman.*] Would it be an inconvenience to the people if the public-houses were closed on Sunday afternoon?—A great number do not wish to have them closed, they wish to have their glass.

3587. Do not others wish to have the public-houses closed because they cannot resist the temptation?—I should say that the majority of the people in Manchester wish to have the public-houses open.

3588. Upon what ground do you form that opinion; there are no petitions for keeping them open, while there is a considerable feeling in favour of closing them?—I was applied to when the meeting was to be held, to speak at a meeting for closing them on Sunday; I said "No, I will do no such thing."

3589. Which way were you asked to speak?—To oppose the parties in favour of closing the public-houses on Sunday. My objection to it was this, that the parties getting up the meeting were purely of the religious class, and ministers of the Gospel of the different churches and chapels, who have at their call the visitors and teachers of the Sunday schools, and they can pack a meeting at any time. There is no chance of a fair and free discussion at any meeting where religion comes into question. I believe all those who have been in the habit of taking a part in the public meetings in Manchester have abstained from attending on that very ground.

3590. You have no doubt that there are many teetotallers and others who are not actuated by the religious feeling of keeping the Sabbath holy, and yet they wish to have the public-houses closed on that day?—The teetotallers have another motive, namely, to put a stop to all drinking.

3591. Plenty of people want to put a stop to drunkenness on Sunday who are not actuated by fanatical feelings?—Yes; there are persons of high moral character who can trace a great deal of the causes of crime to drunkenness.

3592. Do not you know hundreds of workmen who are of that opinion?—They are teetotallers; I do not know one working man who goes to a public-house who is of that opinion.

3593. Mr. *Gregson.*] Are you not aware that the wives and relatives of the working men wish to have the public-houses closed on Sunday?—I have not heard that opinion expressed.

3594. *Chairman.*] Are any liquors sold at the Pomona Gardens?—They are licensed victuallers; brandy, rum, gin, and spirits of all sorts, ale, porter, ginger beer, lemonade, and so on, are sold; I believe both at the Belle Vue and the Pomona Gardens; the majority of what they sell is ginger beer, lemonade, and so on.

3595. You can state that as a fact?—Yes; the "Manchester Guardian," last year, published a statistical account of the amount sold at Belle Vue, and also at other places.

3596. Mr. *Packe.*] You stated, did you not, that you had no objection to the

Mr. *R. J. Richardson.*

16 June 1854.

public-houses being closed till a later hour on Sunday than they are at present; till four or five o'clock?—No.

3597. Would not an inconvenience arise from the houses being closed during the usual dinner hour of the working classes?—I do not think there would; they are only used in the middle of the day for table beer for dinner purposes. There is another reason which I have for closing them till later in the afternoon; in my opinion, if those people who are disposed to drink get into the public-houses in the middle of the day, they are apt to stay there all the afternoon.

3598. Is not one o'clock the usual hour for the working classes to dine?—From twelve to one for the operative portion; and those employed in the warehouses dine from one to two.

3599. *Chairman.*] Do they send for their beer to the public-houses?—Yes.

3600. Mr. *Packe.*] Would it not be inconvenient to them to have the public-houses closed at the time they want the beer for dinner?—I think there would be an inconvenience felt by those people who do not brew their own beer; they could not fetch it over-night, as the saying is.

3601. *Chairman.*] Why not?—It would not keep.

3602. Mr. *Brown.*] Evening drinking is more for the sake of tippling; the parties do not want it for refreshment at their meals; do not you think it would be very desirable if the public-houses were closed in the evening?—No; it is only a social glass that they take.

3603. Does not the social glass, as you call it, sometimes lead to immorality?—The bar-rooms of the public-houses in Manchester are not very much frequented on Sunday evening.

3604. *Chairman.*] You have told the Committee that there is a tendency in the people to resort to places of a superior kind of entertainment; can you account for the fact that there are not more of such places in Manchester; was not a cheap concert given at the Free Trade Hall, which has been discontinued?—The Free Trade Hall Concerts pleased very well, and one would have thought they would have paid well; but an immensely large building like the Free Trade Hall required great expenses. The concerts were kept on at a great loss in order to give them a fair trial.

3605. Were there not a great many people who attended them?—A very great many; principally of the smaller class of tradesmen and the better paid operatives.

3606. There are not many places of this sort, looking at the population of Manchester?—No; there is no other place in Manchester now where you can have cheap concerts, except occasionally in the Mechanics Institution, or in the common music saloons. I believe some of those music saloons are not very well conducted.

3607. Mr. *Brown.*] What do the people pay for admission to the music saloons?—Two-pence each; and they have it returned in refreshments.

3608. *Chairman.*] Do you know of any rooms simply for the purpose of giving concerts which are not connected with the sale of liquor?—There are none in Manchester but the music saloons.

3609. The concerts generally are in order to attract people, and to induce them to drink?—Yes.

3610. What would be the fate of those places if they were conducted without selling liquor?—I think they would pay quite as well without.

3611. You think the people would resort to them?—Yes; there is a musical taste in Manchester, and the music-rooms are well filled everywhere.

3612. Is there no spirit, then, amongst the people to start such places?—There is a project now for starting one upon the site of the old Free Trade Hall; and I believe it will have the effect of drawing large masses of the people of Manchester within the musical sphere. There is a large building in Manchester in which I am particularly interested, namely, the Carpenters' Hall. It was let for very bad purposes; I took it in hand, and I thought I had restored it; I got a number of the most influential gentlemen in Manchester to assist me in the matter, with a view of getting patronage. I thought to have cheap concerts upon the teetotal principle; that is to say, charging 2 *d.* for admission, and giving it back to them in refreshment; the proceeds were to go to the establishment of a library and news-room, and so on. I offered them the building 12 months gratis for a trial; it did not alter the character of the place, and the scheme failed.

3613. Mr. *Gregson.*] What do you mean by giving them refreshments?—They were

were to pay 2 *d.*, and the profits of that 2 *d.* were to be devoted to the objects I have stated.

3614. If you gave them refreshments for the 2 *d.*, you would not have much left for a library?—There are always profits upon these things.

3615. *Chairman.*] Do the common people at Manchester go to the theatres?—Yes, the common people go to the theatres. There are two theatres in the town kept open at one time; there is the Theatre Royal and a minor theatre; but the minor theatre, by the 6th and 7th of Victoria, can now perform the legitimate drama; and they do so. They are next week going to have G. V. Brooke, who is a great star, in the minor theatre.

3616. Would not the magistrates allow any other theatre to be established?—No; that is one reason why I complain about the working classes not having every facility for improving their condition. For instance, Charles Dickens came down with his *corps dramatique* for the purpose of giving a performance in aid of the Guild of Literature and Art. He wanted the Free Trade Hall, but he could not have it; so far as the proprietor was concerned, of course he did not wish to break the law, and he applied to the magistrates for a licence; I believe I have the full particulars with me: "Application for licence, 28th October 1851.—A special session was held at the Borough Court-house, Manchester, before Sir John Potter, mayor, Aldermen Shuttleworth, W. B. Hodgson, and Daniel Maude. Mr. Joseph Pollock, on behalf of H. P. Peacock, applied for a licence, under the 6 & 7 Vict., for the Free Trade Hall, in order that Charles Dickens might get up an amateur play for the benefit of the Guild of Literature and Art. This was opposed by Mr. Janion, solicitor, on behalf of John Knowles, the proprietor of the Theatre Royal, adjoining; who, urging Mr. Knowles' enterprise in theatrical speculation, and that he had offered to Charles Dickens the use of the Theatre Royal, as a reason why a licence should not be granted. Mr. Pollock stated that Mr. Peacock had expended 2,000*l.* in decorating the Free Trade Hall, and encouraging the School of Design in Manchester, and had also spent large sums in encouraging such talent as Mr. Hudson, Madame Anna Thillon, Jullien, &c., and had given 30 concerts, entertaining 100,000 people. Sir John Potter, mayor, stated that the magistrates had refused to grant a licence."

3617. Do you know on what account the magistrates refused that licence?—They refused it I think, and I believe the public in Manchester concur with me, because John Knowles ranks high in position in Manchester.

3618. Is there any Act which gives the magistrates the power to refuse to licence a theatre?—The 6th & 7th Victoria empowers the magistrate to grant licences to theatres. Upon one occasion, Mr. Macready and the late Mr. Justice Talfourd were applied to for an interpretation of the clause which gives the magistrates the power of licensing theatres, and they distinctly stated that the power of the magistrates was not discretionary, but compulsory; and that the power they possessed was merely a controlling power in case of mismanagement or misconduct, and that the magistrates had the power to suspend a licence. However, without trying this question in the superior courts, we could gain nothing by it. I am of opinion, that if two or three theatres were established, and properly conducted under a strict censorship of the drama, it would be a great means of improving the condition of the working classes.

3619. Is not the performance in every theatre subject to the restrictions of the Lord Chamberlain?—Yes; but still there are certain things which, in technical phraseology, are called "gags," and in which there are often vulgarisms and lewd expressions.

3620. Mr. *Gregson.*] The theatres which you have, you say, are not well attended?—One theatre is not well attended because it is a very large place, and at very great expenses; the other theatre would be attended much better if it were not for the auspices under which it is labouring. We want a good theatre or two, properly conducted, with cheap performances. I have no doubt it would materially improve the condition of the people, if the music saloons could be converted into theatres, for which they are almost fitted, if you took away the licence for selling intoxicating liquors, and gave them a licence for dramatic entertainments. They do now occasionally steal a march upon the law, and play a little piece, and get fined for it.

3621. Do not you think a music saloon is preferable to a theatre for the people?—The working classes would run after a music saloon much sooner, because they get a *quid pro quo* for their money in the shape of refreshment, as well as the entertainment

Mr. *R. J. Richardson.*

26 June 1854.

tainment. I am told by a proprietor of one of those places, that they can afford to give an entertainment as good as that at the Theatre Royal, without charging an admission. If so, there must be some great profit in the theatrical profession. I have an analysis of the theatrical performances from the year 1837 to the present time. You will find that the class of entertainments chosen by the people of Manchester, is that the nearest approximating to music saloons, namely, the spectacle.

3622. *Chairman.*] You mean that those are the things that fill the houses?—Yes.

3623. Mr. *Gregson.*] Are Shakspeare's plays attractive in Manchester?—Tragedy does not go down in Manchester at all. Shakspeare's plays are performed four or five times in the season, and spectacle 30 or 40 times; that is the kind of entertainment they are aiming at in the music saloons. They come so near to the law, with respect to every kind stage of entertainment, that it becomes difficult to distinguish a music saloon from a theatre.

3624. *Chairman.*] This is all under the 6th & 7th Victoria?—Yes; there is a power of preventing it under that very law, but it is not put in force Some of those music saloons are licensed victuallers, and by the 11th section are illegal; if that was repealed, and they were all put under the Lord Chamberlain, it would be much better; it would encourage a good taste, and lead the people from the public-houses to places of entertainment.

3625. You say if it is a low kind of representation it does not come within the law, and that it is only what is called a stage play that is subject to the law?—Yes.

3626. Then anything gross or very vulgar in the way of representation is legitimate?—Yes; it is done upon the public stage, in the best theatres.

3627. You would make it quite free in that particular?—Yes; subjecting those places to a strong surveillance on the part of a censor, or police regulation.

3628. To prevent anything offensive to morals or decency?—Yes; it is well known that there is always a congregation of people of a lewd and dissolute character in theatres, who ought to be kept strictly within the code of morality; this will be found to be the prevailing opinion amongst theatrical people. I am strong upon this point, because last Session a certain person gave evidence which I believe would be repudiated by almost every person of his class in the town.

3629. Do you refer to Mr. Gray?—Yes.

3630. I think he said pretty much what you are saying now, that the law interfered with almost all that was legitimate, and did not with that which was illegitimate?—I wish to repudiate that which he said about "Jack Sheppard" being a moral book, and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" being an immoral book; many persons have spoken to me upon that very subject.

3631. Is there any other amendment in the law which you would suggest with reference to public entertainments?—I do not know that there is any particular amendment. I have some remarks to make upon the licensing system.

3632. With respect to the mode in which licenses have been granted to publicans?—Yes.

3633. Will you state shortly what it is which you wish to suggest. What is the general result of this analysis which you now hand in?—The general result is to show that there has been a partiality in favour of certain houses, and that justice has not been done to the population in granting more licensed houses, and therefore preventing beer-shops in certain parts of the town being established.

3634. You complain of the favouritism which is shown to applicants for licenses?—Yes. I think I can show it clearly upon the face of the evidence extracted from the "Manchester Guardian."

3635. Are you prepared to state that the practice of canvassing exists, in order to procure a licence for a person who is not so favoured?—Yes; I am prepared to state that.

3636. I presume you have not any official position before the magistrates when they grant licenses?—No.

3637. It is only as one of the public you state a general opinion that there is favouritism shown in granting licenses?—Yes. I can show it upon the face of the evidence taken from the "Manchester Guardian;" and I take that as an authority, because I may be questioned on my own evidence. I take the public press, and I give my remarks as the result of my own observations.

3638. Is

3638. Is there any particular motive in granting to one man a license and refusing the application of another?—I can show it in detail.

3639. What motive do you ascribe to the magistrates?—Generally the influence of a solicitor, or parties connected with the magistrates; being a magistrate, or purchasing land from magistrates, or houses upon land belonging to magistrates being let; such cases as those.

3640. They are supposed to have some interested bias?—Yes; we have certain great men in Manchester who have influence.

3641. Where would you place the authority of granting licenses in consequence of this objectionable system?—I would throw them open, and place them in the Board of Inland Revenue.

3642. So that every one should be able to get a license as a matter of certainty?—Yes.

3643. With no reference to character, or qualification as to the rating of the house?—I think I should let them be as they are. I think they are low enough. With regard to character, the best guarantee is the conduct of the parties. I would have them subject to a proper system of inspection.

3644. You depend more upon the vigilance of an inspector than the discretion of the magistrates or the authorities granting the licence?—Yes.

3645. You think the police are not sufficiently vigilant now?—No; there is favouritism of course; but I am afraid there always will be, arrange it as we will, as regards the police.

3646. Would you recommend some special inspector to be appointed to watch the public-houses?—Yes; same as in weights and measures.

3647. It is now only the general duty of the police to report if the publicans misconduct themselves when they know it?—Yes; that is the present mode of action; I want it more stringent.

3648. You think the police are subject to temptation?—Yes; I can state an instance where a policeman went into a public-house, which was held by the secretary of the licensed victuallers for a short time. He went up to the bar and got a glass of spirits for himself, and a glass for a female who was with him; he nodded his head to Mr. Moody's wife, who served him, as much as to say, "It is all right;" and she, not thinking it all right, fetched her husband. She said, "George, here is a policeman has had two glasses, and says it is all right." He said, "No, it is not all right; you must pay me for those two glasses." The man looked rather sheepish; and then Mr. Moody said, "If ever you inform against me, I have you under my thumb." This is a fact, and it is not solitary in the town; but I believe that the police of Manchester, however strictly they may be looked after, are, like the police everywhere and like mortality everywhere, corruptible.

3649. They are not infallible?—No.

3650. Your remedy for that would be to appoint some person, paid in such a way as to put him above temptation, who should have the specific duty to perform of watching those houses?—Yes; same as in the weights and measures.

3651. Is there anything else which you would suggest to the Committee?—No; I think nothing but what is contained in this paper (*handing in the same*).

3652. Have you made this statement out yourself?—Yes.

3653. Can you state that you can prove the facts which are contained therein?—Yes; I can show the fact from the evidence taken in the "Manchester Guardian," that licenses have been refused in densely populated neighbourhoods to persons of good character, while licenses have been granted to persons in neighbourhoods which were already surrounded by public-houses.

3654. You think the magistrates do not look merely to the requirements of the district?—No.

3655. Do you think they could ascertain them if they did?—I should say with respect to Hulme, where there are few public-houses, they might judge there, when they grant a license in Market-street, in the very centre of the town, where there are seven or eight within 50 yards of one another higher up Market-street, and where there are three or four hotels close to it, one recently closed, and another house of a similar kind, of which they have refused to transfer the license; and where houses have been pulled down for public improvements, and several houses have been deprived of their licenses.

3656. You never come yourself into collision with the magistrates; you are an independent man?—I am not under any influence, public or private.

Mr. *R. J. Richardson.*

16 June 1854.

3657. Do you own any public-houses?—No; I had a public-house, but I sold it; I had a beer-house of my own, and I will never have another remain on my property. I think it would tend very much to improve the condition of the working classes if all sorts of friendly societies were prohibited from meeting in public-houses.

3658. Mr. *Gregson.*] You have spoken of the magistrates who grant the licences; are they generally the same magistrates?—They are generally the same gentlemen; there are some who are never there only upon licensing day.

3659. Are they gentlemen of great influence and reputation?—Yes; there is naturally a feeling in favour of one another.

3660. You do not mean to say there is anything beyond that?—I do not attribute corrupt motives to them by any means, beyond favour and affection.

Mr. *George Clegg*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *G. Clegg.*

3661. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—A Solicitor, at Oldham.

3662. Do you attend the magistrates on licensing day?—No, I do not.

3663. Do you know anything of the public-houses at Oldham?—I do.

3664. Do you know anything of another sort of houses, called hush-shops?—Yes.

3665. Do they exist to a great extent in Oldham?—They are very numerous.

3666. Are they never interfered with?—Very little; the evidence which is required against them is so strong.

3667. Do they sell spirits?—They generally sell beer.

3668. Do they profess to sell beer without a licence?—Yes; they brew it themselves.

3669. Do you know what quality of beer they sell?—They sell beer at 4*d.* a quart, and at 6*d.* and 8*d.*; different prices.

3670. Have they any sign, or other appearance of selling beer?—They have no sign; they are private houses.

3671. Do the common people know those houses?—Yes; they are just the parties who frequent them, and none others.

3672. The houses know their customers?—Yes; they will not fill to a stranger, because they are afraid of being convicted.

3673. How do they know those people who come for beer?—They do know them; it is a very well known fact.

3674. You say you cannot get evidence against them?—No.

3675. The policemen report 32 convictions in two years?—Yes.

3676. How many houses do you think there are of that sort in Oldham?—Four hundred or 500.

3677. Hush-houses?—Yes.

3678. Mr. *Gregson.*] How many were there in 1851?—Three hundred and eighty-seven.

3679. Do you mean to say that they have increased to that extent?—They increase every year. The greatest amount of drunkenness in Oldham is between 12 o'clock on Saturday night and nine o'clock on Sunday morning. I am of opinion that the law requires alteration with regard to their conviction.

3680. *Chairman*] You cannot get evidence of their selling beer without a licence?—No; the party who gives evidence against them must pay the money for the beer, and taste it, to see that it is beer, before the magistrates will convict.

3681. Do the keepers of the hush-houses know their customers so well that they are not afraid of any informers?—Exactly; the parties have to go dressed as labourers, or in some other way, for a month or so before they can get into a house to effect a conviction, which is very expensive, and takes a very long time.

3682. Do not people ever come out drunk?—Yes.

3683. Are not they watched?—They are taken up; as the inspector of police states, the greatest number of cases of drunkenness are from those places; when they cannot get into the beer-shops they go there on Saturday night.

3684. Cannot you get evidence from the drunken man as to where he got the beer?—No. If you summon him before the magistrates he will not give evidence.

3685. Are there a great number of hush-shops convicted?—Yes. There are parties who are doing nothing else but selling beer in that way. There are above 100 who are kept by it alone.

3686. Do you think if the public-houses were closed on Sunday those hush-houses would increase?—Tremendously.

3687. If they increased tremendously you would be able to get evidence?—The law would have to be altered. You can hardly convict them. In fact the inhabitants of Oldham are against the closing of public-houses on Sunday in consequence of those hush-shops.

3688. Are those hush-shops peculiar to Oldham, or are they general in Lancashire?—They are general in Rochdale I believe.

3689. Do bad characters go to the hush-shops?—Yes, of all descriptions.

3690. Have the magistrates taken any steps to put them down?—No, they have taken none themselves; the Inland Revenue Office have done all the work of late years; the magistrates have done none directly.

3691. Mr. *Brown.*] What do they profess to sell in those houses in the way of refreshment?—Beer and ale; you can have bread and cheese, if you want.

3692. It is a house of public entertainment?—Quite so.

3693. *Chairman.*] Have you any suggestion to make to remedy this evil?—There is a suggestion at the end of this paper. This is the report of the superintendent of police to the magistrates for the year 1851.

3694. It gives the number of hush-houses and the number of convictions?—Yes.

[*The Report was handed in, and is as follows:*]

Extract from a REPORT presented to the Magistrates at the last General Annual Licensing Sessions for the Borough of *Oldham.*

TABLE (A) shows the Number of HUSH-SELLERS in the Borough of *Oldham,* distinguishing those who live solely by this illegal practice from those who follow their usual Trade or Calling in addition, &c. &c.

Total Number of Hush-shops.	Number not Employed.	Number Employed.	Number that are Married.	Number that are living in Fornication.	Number of Widows.	Total Number of Children.	Number of Hush-sellers fined during last Two Years.	Number of Hush-sellers never convicted.					Commenced since the passing of the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 49.
								Number that have sold for 20 Years and upwards.	15 Years and under 20.	10 Years and under 15.	5 Years and under 10.	3 Years and under 5.	
387	170	217	272	21	94	953	32	4	1	18	39	92	201

With reference to the hush-shops, I am sorry to say they are on the increase, and continue to be a fruitful source of intemperance and its consequences. Little can be done in bringing the keepers to justice. From the return you will find that in two years only 32 persons have been convicted out of 387 who have been following this unlawful calling. It will also be seen that four persons have been selling for the last 20 years with impunity. These houses are the seat of the greatest vices; prostitution is openly carried on, and a race is springing up which will add no small number to the already enormous criminal and immoral community of the country. I account for so few convictions from the following reasons, viz., at present it is necessary to produce a witness who can prove he has had drink delivered to him for which he has paid a sum of money; the evidence of a person who simply saw the transaction not being deemed sufficient by most magistrates.

To obtain the requisite evidence is a matter of the greatest difficulty, for the *habitues* of such places would not be very likely to tell the truth, if after being seen drinking in the houses they were summoned to give evidence.

The only way therefore of reaching the case is, by employing a person to visit the hush-shops, and obtain drink; this course is very expensive, and requires so much time that it will never become effective. The hush-seller is too wary to sell to any stranger that may present himself, and the consequence is, that the informer has to locate himself in the neighbourhood until he has formed a companionship with the ordinary frequenters, whose introduction alone is little less than absolutely necessary to enable him to get supplied with liquor. Again, this class of informers are not the most reliable sources of testimony. I am of opinion that this great evil will never be suppressed until an Act be passed having special regard to the subject.

I think it could be met by treating them as disorderly houses, and extending the jurisdiction of petty sessions to the determination of that class of offences, instead of as at present indicting them at quarter sessions, a course too expensive and elaborate to become available. I do not think there would be much difficulty in arriving at a proper distinction between a hush-shop and a house where a party was assembled for legitimate convivial purposes, in the one creditable evidence could easily be procured that indiscriminate company were in the constant habit of assembling both night and day, and much drunkenness and disorderly conduct prevalent.

Martis, 20° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. C. P. Villiers.	Mr. Brown.
Sir G. Goodman.	Mr. Gregson.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Mr. Barrow.
Mr. Packe.	Mr. Sotheron.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Joseph Stinton*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Stinton.*
20 June 1854.

3695. *Chairman.*] ARE you in business?—I am not in business; I am chairman of the United Towns Licensed Victuallers' Association.

3696. What is that association?—It is an association for the protection of the trade; the committee is held in Birmingham; the towns which I represent before the committee are Ashton-under-Lyne, Birmingham, Bristol, Bridlington, Coventry, Derby, Hull, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Leicester, Loughborough, Banbury, Bath, Bradford, Exeter, Liverpool, Leamington, Lichfield, Manchester, Macclesfield, Nottingham, Northampton, Oldham, Preston, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Stockport, Staleybridge, Sudbury, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Warrington, and York.

3697. What is the connexion with all those towns and the society of which you are chairman?—To protect the trade as far as possible.

3698. You do not mean to say, all the public-houses in all those towns are associated for this purpose?—The great majority of publicans in all those towns are associated with this society.

3699. The licensed victuallers, not the beersellers?—No.

3700. You are in possession of their views upon the subject of the inquiry?—I am.

3701. With respect to the licensing generally, or are you come to speak to any particular point?—With regard to the closing on Sunday, and also with regard to the licensing system.

3702. Have you collected their opinions respecting the closing the houses for a further period on Sunday?—I may state, that they are strongly opposed to closing the public-houses on Sunday more than the law now lays down.

3703. What do you consider the law to require them to do?—To close at 12 on Saturday evening till one mid-day on Sunday, and from three to five.

3704. Do you consider that the law requires them to close from three to five in the country?—In Birmingham we do not do so; we understand that is the law, and we are prepared to bow to the law. I think if that law were carried out more strictly than it is, then drunkenness on Sunday would be almost unknown in England. We feel satisfied from the returns of drunkenness which we got, that drunkenness is caused by drinking on the Sunday morning.

3705. As far as you represent the trade, it is in favour of the present restriction on the Sunday?—Quite so; it is the wish of the licensed victuallers generally through the country, to do away with drunkenness as far as possible on Sunday.

3706. Has this restriction, the few years past, really injured the trade?—There is no doubt it has pecuniarily injured the trade; still the licensed victuallers saw that there would be a great advantage, morally, to close up to a certain time, knowing the great mischief which was done on Saturday night and Sunday morning with regard to the working classes. It was done without a dissentient voice through the country. I mention this to show that the licensed victuallers were willing to do all they could to benefit the working man, even at a sacrifice. But we are fully satisfied, as practical men, that to do more than the law at present lays down would be to do mischief.

3707. They

3707. You do not wish to give the Committee to understand that the trade is not in a prosperous state now, in consequence of the law; you do not mean to say that it is a worse trade than it used to be, in consequence of closing the houses during the hours they are closed?—There is not so much money taken I dare say. I have no question about that; but to speak about the state of the trade now as I can recollect it, it is a trade 50 per cent. worse than when I first went into it.

3708. There is less drunkenness?—Considerably so. I have a letter which I got from our superintendent of police.

3709. Of what town?—Birmingham. I asked him to get me a return from eight or ten of the largest towns in England of cases of drunkenness from Saturday evening at 12 o'clock, taking Whit Sunday in, up to 11 o'clock on Monday. Whit Sunday is a great holiday in the country; and I thought that would be a very fair day to test the drunkenness of the country. I went that same evening to our Vauxhall in Birmingham; I made an inquiry from the proprietor, and I found 6,000 persons went in; I found the working man, the artisan and his wife, sitting there comfortably and happy; that was their enjoyment; there was not any appearance of drunkenness.

3710. Do they sell intoxicating liquors there?—Yes. In this official return from the police, I find at Birmingham, from 12 o'clock on Saturday night, taking in Whit Sunday, that only 5 male persons were taken into custody; Bristol, 5 males and 1 female; Bradford, 1 female; Hull, 1 male; Leicester, 2 males; Leeds, 4 males; Liverpool, 26 males drunk and disorderly; 11 taken into custody for safety, 11 females drunk and disorderly, 3 females taken into custody for safety; Nottingham, no return; Sheffield, 14 males, 1 female; Bath, no return. So that, in a population of 1,414,403 souls, I find the total returns of drunkenness for some thirty-five hours to be 85 persons. But if I deduct the population of Liverpool, 375,955, from that, it leaves 1,038,448, for which population I have a return of only 34 persons taken into custody for drunkenness during that time; so that from nine towns I have but 34; from Liverpool alone I have 51.

3711. Will you just tell the Committee upon what authority you directed the superintendent of police to make the return?—I am a town councillor of Birmingham, and I asked the superintendent to oblige me by getting this; I knew I was coming to give evidence, or expected to do so.

3712. You believe the superintendent attended to your requests, and communicated with other police superintendents in the towns you have named?—Yes; there is one I have had sent me from Bath, which is an answer to his request.

3713. You have not authenticated those returns in any way?—No more than that I had them direct from the superintendent of police of Birmingham.

3714. Do I understand from this, that there were no persons apprehended whatever at Bath?—Exactly so.

3715. This is the proof you offer of the amount of drunkenness on the greatest holiday in the country in those several towns, at least those towns from which you have got a return; from the greater part of the towns you have not had returns?—Yes, I had returns from all that were written to, I believe; I had a return from Edinburgh for that day, but as it was not an English town I have not introduced in my answer the statistics given for Edinburgh.

3716. Will you state it?—It is rather a small number; eight males charged with being drunk and other offences; I have five males drunk and incapable, discharged on becoming sober, without being taken before the magistrates, and one female.

3717. Do you mention Edinburgh as a proof?—No; I believe there is a new system brought into operation there.

3718. You do not know what the number of cases were upon any other time than upon the occasion you mention?—I do not; I thought I would take the opportunity of going to those public gardens of Birmingham on Whit-Sunday, and it was really an agreeable sight to see the working men. I was brought up as a working man myself in Birmingham, and I know well the customs and habits of working men, and I know there is a great alteration for the better; and to see them there happy and comfortable as they appeared, was a pleasing sight to me. I feel satisfied that if those houses were entirely closed on Sunday, instead of men taking their wives out to walk in pleasant gardens, and sitting there for an hour,

Mr. *J. Stinton.*

20 June 1854.

and going quietly home, those men would meet in their own houses and would be in a state of dirt all that day, and the wives would have no inducement to put a clean gown on, and drunkenness, I feel satisfied, would be increased by closing the houses on Sunday. You should carry the law out stringently as it is now laid down.

3719. Do I understand from you that the people go chiefly for the purpose of drinking in those gardens?—They go as a walk for a couple of miles with their wives; they make out their route and say, we will call at such a place, and have a cup of ale, and the husband has a pipe of tobacco.

3720. Do you think without some liquors being sold they would go to the gardens?—A man being accustomed to work in the day, he is accustomed to have ale twice a day in Birmingham, particularly, and I dare say in all towns.

3721. Then fixing the period when he desires to have his ale and pipe when he goes to these gardens at the same time as the houses are open in Birmingham, —they are closed at present till one o'clock and then opened,—you are inferring that he would not, if that regulation were kept, be satisfied with getting his beer at those hours, but he must have it when he takes a walk with his wife?—It is what he has been accustomed to; if you were to shut him up in the house on Sunday the man would not go to work at all on Monday; many do not do so now.

3722. Can you state that they do not go to work early on Monday?—That is a habit that is dying away; what they call Saint Monday.

3723. Has that anything to do with the Sunday evening?—No; I do not think it has. I think the returns show there is not much drunkenness, though men go into public-houses.

3724. Is there not a little drinking on the Monday?—Yes, there is.

3725. Finishing what they began on Sunday?—No; I do not think it is from that. I believe it is in Birmingham the same as in other large towns. I made inquiries, and I find the law is broken immensely on the Sunday morning. They get into the beerhouses, and into the licensed victuallers' houses, and are hid by the landlords. The cure that I should offer for that would be to punish the customer as well as the landlord; and at once you would give the landlord the opportunity to say, "No, I will not serve you." But now the opposition is so immense, as we have got nearly 1,100 beerhouses in Birmingham, that the landlords of the licensed victuallers' houses are not masters of their own houses. I recollect the time when they were, but the opposition is so immense that a landlord dare not say to a customer, "I will not serve you." If he did, the customer would go where he could be served. If the landlord had the opportunity of saying "No; if I serve you, you will be punished for it," that would stop drunkenness altogether on Sunday, or nearly so.

3726. You would make the customer liable equally with the landlord; in fact, any person found on the premises breaking the law?—Yes.

3727. You would suggest that as a means of preventing the very constant breach of the law which occurs now?—I would. I am giving the opinion of the licensed victuallers throughout the country, and they are forced into that position from the enormous opposition in the trade.

3728. I presume you do not deny that there is a great deal of drunkenness takes place on the Sunday evening, and the Saturday evening?—On Saturday evening, no doubt there is. I do not think there is much on Sunday evening. If you could keep a man sober up till mid-day on Sunday, you would find very little drunkenness afterwards. A man very rarely gets drunk when he goes out with his wife for a walk. Simple as it may appear, the man when he has on his Sunday clothes, shrinks from doing that which he would do in his working clothes.

3729. Is it within your knowledge, that the law is infringed very much in Birmingham?—It is in all towns.

3730. You have no doubt of the fact?—I am certain of it.

3731. The police have a right to enter when they hear of it?—They have. I think it would be an advantage if a policeman had a slight remuneration for his services.

3732. You think the temptation is too great to the policeman now the other way? —No doubt. Taking Saturday night in particular, if a policeman finds a public-house or a beerhouse open, he passes by it. I have heard this from a policeman; he has

has said, "If I were to give information, instead of being in my bed on Monday morning, I should have to lose my rest to be before the magistrates in the Police Court, and I would rather let them sell ale or spirits than sacrifice my rest." If there was a reward of half-a-crown upon a conviction, you would find that the police officer would sacrifice his rest to carrying out the law and stopping drunkenness.

3733. Do you think the licensed victuallers would object to an inspector being specially appointed to watch and control the public-houses?—No, if it could be carried out fairly. There are plenty who carry the law out strictly now, but they are sacrificed by those who do not do so, and their customers are taken from them in consequence.

3734. In order to secure the vigilance of the constable, would you have some one specially appointed to that duty?—I do not think you would have enough; you must have a large number, for instance, taking Birmingham.

3735. Would not a man who had that duty alone to perform be able to act for a considerable district, and would not the knowledge that he was appointed for that purpose have a certain influence in preventing offences?—Some superintending power would be very useful, specially engaged to watch that the policemen did their duty, and also to do so himself; it would be very effective, in my opinion.

3736. The policeman is under great temptations at present not to inform against the licensed victuallers?—He is not paid over and above well. I believe it is the sacrifice of the man's rest that he considers; if he were to bring 20 convictions of men breaking the law he would get no more at the end of the week for his services.

3737. Have you any other reasons to state against closing the public-houses on Sunday?—Closing public-houses on the Sunday would be a positive ruin to hundreds, such as tea-gardens in the suburbs of large towns.

3738. Do you mean that drinking is so excessive on Sunday evening that closing the houses would seriously affect the profits of public-houses which are particularly places of resort on Sunday, and that the people would suffer if they were not allowed to sell intoxicating liquors?—Yes; in summer time there are houses in which there may be 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* invested, and if you were to stay the opening of those houses on Sunday those parties would be ruined, and nothing could save them.

3739. You think there would be no attraction which could be offered to the customers of such places as a substitute for intoxicating drinks?—I do not think there is.

3740. Do you think the working classes will not go to any place where there are not beer and spirits sold?—Yes; for instance, I think they would go to the Crystal Palace.

3741. Do you think they would go to the Crystal Palace if they did not sell liquors?—I have no doubt of it.

3742. Do not the working classes avail themselves of any place of innocent recreation when the opportunity is offered?—There is a growing inclination for it; at the same time those men who have been accustomed to beer during the week like to have it on the Sabbath day in moderation. It is not because a man takes his pint of ale that he is bound to be drunk.

3743. You attach great importance to the houses being open on Sunday?—Yes, from five o'clock.

3744. Would you close them after five o'clock on Sunday evening?—No; I have heard it stated that ale put into a bottle is just as good as when it is drawn from the butt; to any practical man, that is, of all ideas, the most silly.

3745. You think there is no such thing as taking beer out over night in a bottle, and not spoiling the liquor?—It would not be half so good; if a man has to draw the cork for Sunday's dinner, and cork it up again, it would be flat for the evening; as we call it, ale "sickens" after it is drawn and put into a bottle. If you lay the ale down for a fortnight in a bottle it would be much better; but for 24 hours the ale keeps sickening and getting worse.

3746. Is it much the habit of the people to have beer with their dinner to drink with their families at Birmingham?—Yes.

3747. You are speaking in the interest of the publicans when you say that the custom is so important on Sunday evening that it would be injurious to close the houses?—I am speaking more positively with regard to the summer houses.

Mr. J. Stinton.

20 June 1854.

3748. You would make an exception, supposing a law were passed to close the houses generally, of those places of entertainment which are specially resorted to on Sunday?—If there was a law passed of that kind I should make an exception of them, as far as my views go; I do not see the necessity for it at all if the present law is carried out.

3749. Have you communicated with the superintendent of police to know whether the drunkenness takes place on Sunday morning and not on Sunday evening?—I have conversed with the superintendent of police, and he has not the slightest doubt of it.

3750. That the greatest drunkenness begins on Sunday morning?—Yes; there is no doubt that there are some who want something, as they say, "to freshen the old up," which they have taken on Saturday night. Saturday night is the great night for drinking; but if you could keep them from drinking till one o'clock on Sunday, when they sit down with their families to dinner and have their pint of ale, you will not find them get drunk afterwards, only in very rare cases.

3751. You have no doubt that there are a great number of cases of drunkenness which the police do not notice at all?—No doubt; the Return which I have referred to is a fair average to show that our teetotal friends, and our religious friends, who are wishing to carry a position, have nothing like the premises for them to start upon on which they wish to carry it.

3752. There are other parties besides religious people and teetotallers who see the great evils of drunkenness, and its connexion with almost every crime and vice practised by the people?—So do the licensed victuallers; there is no man more annoying to them than a drunken man.

3753. May not a man consume more of his wages than he ought in drinking, without being drunk?—Yes; I recollect the time when the licensed victualler was the master of his house; I know when he used to say to a working man, "Now you have had enough, you go to work;" but he dare not say so now; there are perhaps two beerhouses, one on each side of him, and if he said that the man would say, "What does it matter to you if you are paid; if you do not serve me or trust me, I can go to next door," above or below, "and they will be glad of my custom; they will trust me as much as I choose." The licensed victualler is bound to do this and sacrifice the working man's family from no other cause than the beer trade; it has brought gin-palaces into existence, and exhibitions of all kinds into public-houses which were never intended to be connected with licensed victuallers' houses.

3754. You mean to say that the excessive competition which now exists in the trade, induces them to resort to those means to get a living?—Yes.

3755. You are speaking against the Beer Act, which allows people to get licences from the Excise?—Yes; I remember Mr. Reynolds, the Insolvent Commissioner, making a remark when one insolvent after another was brought in, "What, beer-sellers again!" No Act that ever was passed has produced so much insolvency as the Beer Act.

3756. Are there not a great many transfers of licensed houses?—A great many; I have in my pocket from two auctioneers to whom I spoke yesterday, a return of the houses to let in Birmingham at the present time; they are drowning each other; the one has 60 beerhouses and the other 50.

3757. Have those auctioneers got those houses to sell?—Yes; they are two of the auctioneers only out of 10 or a dozen.

3758. Do they find that they cannot sell the houses, or that they are deteriorated in value?—You will find unfortunate victims walk into those houses. Where one publican is getting a living, half a dozen are but just floating.

3759. What is the mischief of the present system; do you consider it is the facility with which beer-sellers get a licence?—No doubt there is a great difference in regard to the trade of a licensed victualler compared to any other. If a man had 500 *l.* or 1,000 *l.*, and he wanted to go into some trade to invest his money, and you suggest to him to be a brassfounder, he would say, "I cannot; I know nothing of the trade." If you would suggest to him to be a jeweller, he would equally say, "I know nothing of it." But if you were to say, "There is a public-house to let at such a place," he would say, "That will do; I will have it." Many men have an idea that to be a publican is a very easy matter; every man imagines that he can be a licensed victualler or a beer-seller; they rush into the trade, and they get into the Insolvency Court or the Bankruptcy Court, and misery and ruin is brought upon hundreds, and I might say thousands, in consequence.

3760. That

3760. That is, with regard to the delusion under which people enter this trade?—It always will be so. There is something attractive in seeing a licensed victualler with all the appliances of his trade about him; there he is with his pipe in his mouth; it all looks so tempting, which is not the case in any other trade.

3761. That is not a defect in the law, but that is from the nature of the trade; you complain of the facility with which people now get licences from the Excise, because it increases competition and makes the trade less respectable?—Yes; the Excise never trouble themselves about the respectability of the parties.

3762. Do you think it has been the tendency of the Beer Act, by separating a publican's business and enabling one set of people to carry on one branch of the business and another set the other, to make people less respectable who go into the beer business only?—I think the evil is to allow the Excise to grant licences at all. I do not think any authority is so good as the magistrates, from their high position and the care which they take in granting licences; they will not even grant the transfer of a licence to any man unless he brings a certificate of character; and then the superintendent of police himself is directed to make inquiry into it.

3763. Do you consider that owing to the little capital which is required to go into the beer trade, it makes that kind of publican less respectable than the other?—There is no doubt about it; the more respectable you make the position of a publican, the better it will be for the morality of the working classes.

3764. You say there is a great deal of inquiry made by the magistrates as to the characters of publicans?—Yes.

3765. What does that do for the community?—There are parties who keep beerhouses, to whom the magistrates would not grant a license at all.

3766. The mischief is done by selling intoxicating liquor; the best characters may sell it, and the people may be just as much injured by drinking?—The best characters would say to a man, "I will not serve you, you have had enough," and if you cut down this enormous competition the landlord dare say it; there are plenty of men who say so now, in spite of the competition.

3767. Are there not plenty of the licensed victuallers who are in reality mearly the agents of other people, and who can best perform their service by selling as rapid a draught of liquor as possible?—I have heard of men being placed in by brewers, but it is not the case in Birmingham; I can speak for that; every man is his own brewer, even to the beer-sellers, or nearly so; a man generally goes in with what capital he has, or what he may borrow from his friends.

3768. What advantage do you consider arises from this kind of vigilance on the part of the magistrates with respect to the publicans?—You insure more respectable characters; there are many men in the beer trade as respectable as the licensed victuallers; but still there are many men just the contrary.

3769. You would not prevent competition if the men were as respeetable as they could be?—No; but if the power of licensing were in the hands of the magistrates they would not allow houses to be opened indiscriminately, and without regard to the wants of the neighbourhood; the magistrates can ascertain it with the assistance of the police; that is another reason why I would put it in the hands of the magistrates; from their connexion with the police they can get better information; if you put two houses in a street with no great thoroughfare, or two houses next door to each other, that is more than the wants of the neighbourhood require, and the two men will be cutting against each other, and the consequence is, that they resort to anything but proper means to get a living.

3770. Have you heard that the magistrates are connected with those houses themselves, and have a preference for persons who hold them, and show favour to those persons?—I have; but they are rare exceptions. I heard Mr. Beggs make that statement with regard to Mr. Alderman Phillips; he drew his interence that Mr. Alderman Phillips was keeping one of the worst-conducted houses in Birmingham, whereas it is, in truth, one of the best-conducted houses. I have no doubt that some of the magistrates are in connexion with parties in some of the public-houses, but they are very rare exceptions. Taking the magistrates through the country, the licensed victuallers are quite prepared to be under their control. I was a licensed victualler for 18 years, and I should say that I have no interest in the trade at all; but as a practical man I would recommend, if you want to improve the morals of the working classes, that there should be a reduction of the number of public-houses and beerhouses.

3771. You think there is a great evil done by the sale of these liquors?—Yes,

Mr. *J. Stinton.*

20 June 1854.

carried out to the extent that is being done through the enormous competition; but let every licensed victualler be independent, so that he can speak positively to his customers, and the wives and children of the working men will have more food.

3772. You are now speaking of Birmingham?—Yes, from what I have seen, and from information which I strive to get from all parts of the country.

3773. Are the Committee to understand that there is a general satisfaction felt by the people in the trade with regard to the manner in which licences are granted by the magistrates at Birmingham?—Yes.

3774. Two of your fellow-townsmen have appeared before this Committee as witnesses, and have suggested that there is a good deal of favour even in Birmingham?—Yes; I can easily understand that disappointed beer-sellers would be dissatisfied.

3775. You mean those that do not get licences?—Yes.

3776. You hear that a beer-seller who gets a licence is satisfied, but a man that does not is safe to be dissatisfied?—Yes.

3777. Have you any other remedy to suggest but that every beer-seller should get his licence from the magistrates as they are constituted at present?—I think it would be very unfair to interfere with the present vested property of the beerhouses; but for the future, if the magistrates had the power of granting a beer-seller or a licensed victualler his licence, there should be two forms of licence. A man could make his choice, and go to the magistrates, and say, "I want to open a beerhouse or a licensed house," and the magistrates, as they do at at present, would go and visit to see whether the house had proper accommodation, and to see whether the wants of the neighbourhood required more than the number of houses which there were already. The magistrates, taking the great mass of them, are perfectly independent, and they go through their duty with a pure feeling, I am satisfied.

3778. How many beerhouses are there in Birmingham?—In 1853 we had 1,050.

3779. How are the magistrates to know the characters of those people?—If the magistrates had granted the licences they would not have granted half that number, and the working classes would have been far better off.

3780. Though there had been less beer sold?—I do not care about that; you would increase the comforts of the working classes by making the landlords independent; but what is the fact; many beerhouses are kept by foremen in different shops and large manufactories; he takes a house with perhaps two or three rooms; he opens it as a beerhouse; his wife minds it, and he goes to the manufactory; perhaps he has a dozen men under him, and those men are bound to go to that man's house; he knows he is safe for his money; those men are bound to pay him, and their wives and homes are sacrificed.

3781. You are only talking of number; do you think that the magistrates could know the requirements of any trade, or would you submit all trades to the discretion of the magistrates?—No.

3782. Why would you submit one trade more than another to the discretion of the magistrates?—There is a peculiarity in the licensed victuallers' trade; practical men can soon tell whether they ought to grant licences; we had 25 granted last year, and there was not a licensed victualler that found fault with it; though they came within a certain distance of their houses, still they were in new localities.

3783. That is the system as it exists at present?—Yes.

3784. Where is the advantage of the magistrates interfering to say what the requirement of the public are with regard to beer, more than other articles of trade, for instance, bread?—Because it matters not how much bread is sold; it is an advantage to the poor; but the free trade of spirits and ale requires more control.

3785. You think that is a perilous trade as regards poor people?—I can understand free trade in food being beneficial, but free trade in spirits would be very mischievous.

3786. You recognise the policy of restricting the trade by law on that account?—I do.

3787. And you put limits upon it; but you think that we go too far by proposing to restrict it on Sunday evening?—Yes, I do; that is an excessive restriction.

3788. But a restriction to that extent is proposed on the same ground which you sanction, so far as it goes, at present?—Yes; but you may have too much of a good

a good thing. If you take the hours that they are restricted now, that is quite sufficient; a further restriction would cause them to break the law more, and I am satisfied that you would cause more drunkenness in the men's own houses than you would find at the present time; if you carry out the present law strictly, and punish the customers as well as the landlords, you would have "nil" in amost all those returns.

3789. You admit that the extent of restriction is a matter of opinion?—I admit that the extent of the restriction is a matter of opinion.

3790. You are afraid of the inconvenience extending that further than it exists at present?—Yes, I have no interest in it; but as a practical man, having been in the trade 18 years, I feel satisfied that to attempt to restrict it more (carry out the present laws as far as you can), would be to cause more drunkenness than at the present time.

3791. You are not afraid of a further restriction by diminishing the number of beerhouses; you say that the magistrates would not allow half the number of beerhouses if they had the power of licensing them?—I am speaking with regard to general consumption.

3792. I understood you to say that it would be a good thing for the morals of the people if about one half of the beerhouses in Birmingham were to be shut up?—Yes, I do think so.

3793. You would not be afraid of any inconvenience from limiting the number of those houses?—Not at all.

3794. You think that a further restriction is required than exists at present with respect to the number of beerhouses?—With regard to the public-houses and beerhouses and other trades, there was a return made at Bristol by a society, and they went into some statistics to show the number of public-houses and beerhouses; and there was more than double the number of public-houses and beerhouses than there were bakers, butchers, and grocers.

3795. Do you mean that there were more public-houses and beerhouses than bakers, butchers, and grocers put together?—More than double; and it is an unhealthy trade whenever that is the case, which brings those men, according to the catalogues of the auctioneers, into those houses. They soon turn them up, and sell them to other victims who do the same, and thus many men are ruined.

3796. You say that many of them would be ruined if you prevented their getting custom on Sunday evenings?—I am speaking of the country houses.

3797. I presume a good deal of what you say about the beersellers would apply to the licensed victuallers, judging from the numbers of transfers?—The beersellers and licensed victuallers are like a great many fish in a little drop water; they are drowning each other; the licensed victuallers have not been sacrificed quite so much, because they last longer; they have a little more property; but it is a lamentable trade at the present time.

3798. Do you think that if the duty were raised which they pay for their licences, fewer would enter into the trade?—There is so much temptation in the trade that you will always find, if they can get into it at all, they will rush into this trade when they will not into any other; and it requires, I think, the discretion of men who are not interested, such as the magistrates of our country and the police, to say whether a beerhouse is wanted, and whether it is for the good of the working men.

3799. So far as I understand you, your remedy is to give some competent authority the power to grant licences to all classes of public-houses, and to require greater vigilance for enforcing the law on the part of the police?—Yes.

3800. You do not say that the magistrates are the best power, but you would have some competent authority?—Yes; I say that the magistrates are the best.

3801. Have you considered all others?—I have heard a great deal of the evidence which has been given here, and I have also considered the question well, and I do not know any authority which is so good, from their living in the locality where the licences are to be granted, and from their connexion with the police. Taking the great mass of the magistrates, whether in the agricultural districts or the manufacturing districts, I have no doubt it is their wish to do that which is advantageous for the working men. I know that it is the opinion of the magistrates throughout the country that the beer trade is a most mischievous thing.

3802. Do the same magistrates attend on licensing days?—Generally.

Mr. *J. Stinton.*

20 June 1854.

3803. Who grants the licences in Birmingham?—The borough magistrates; they go through the applicants' houses personally, and test the quality of the houses and the characters of the men.

3804. That is since the town has been incorporated; you had not magistrates formerly, and it was then done by the county magistrates?—Yes.

3805. You do not know much of the country trade?—I do not; but still I quite agree with all the information about the country as well as the town.

3806. Would you recommend that no further beer licences should be granted?—Under the present system there is a growing inclination amongst the working men at the present time to become better and wiser men, and to give a proper impetus to that inclination in my opinion is, to make difficult the access to intoxicating drinks.

3807. You think that that would be done by reducing the number of beer-houses?—No doubt.

3808. Do not you think that if there were no beerhouses to-morrow, the number of licensed public-houses would increase?—That would be the fault of the magistrates.

3809. Are you not aware that the magistrates are very various in their opinions on these matters; for instance, that the magistrates of Birmingham do not agree with those at Liverpool?—Yes, I am aware of that; to give an idea of the operation of free trade in spirits at Liverpool, the magistrates have granted licences almost indiscriminately to nearly every one who asked for a licence. According to the general returns of drunkenness, which were made in 1852, upon the motion of Mr. Hume, there were about 18,000 or 19,000 cases of drunkenness brought before the magistrates in Liverpool in a year. In Manchester I have not the exact number, but it was something about 700, and in Birmingham about the same number. In Birmingham and Manchester the magistrates have been very cautious with regard to granting licences, and in Liverpool they have granted them to any one who chose to come and ask; the magistrates at Liverpool grumbled about their having the power of granting licences.

3810. What is the advantage of this sort of carefulness on the part of the magistrates, if any number of beerhouses can be established?—The sale of beer is bad enough, but the sale of ardent spirits is more mischievous.

3811. Do not the people drink more beer than spirits in Birmingham?—It is a beer-drinking town; there is a great deal of gambling carried on in Birmingham, although the police do all they can to put it down; when the policeman is about the cards are hid, and that has been brought on entirely owing to the beer trade.

3812. That is owing to the competition for custom in the trade?—Yes; because if the licensed victuallers did not allow it, the parties would go to a beerhouse. I recollect a case myself in which I said, "I will not allow cards in my tap-room," and the consequence was, that the men said, "Well, there is a beerhouse very near, and if you do not allow it, we will go to that house." Bad language was being used, and my house was cleared; I lost all my custom for a time, and I was obliged to allow cards to regain it, in spite of the law.

3813. Why was not that beerhouse informed against?—What is the good of it? I have rarely known a case carried out. Three convictions are a disqualification; but if you disqualify the man, you do not disqualify the house. I recollect a case in which the magistrates of Birmingham stopped a licensed victualler's house; they gave him special notice that he had bad company in his house, and at last they stopped the licence. What did he do? He went to the Excise Office and took out his licence, and snapped his fingers at the magistrates, and carried on ten times worse.

3814. That is not consistent with the law; if it had been notified to the Excise, their duty was to suspend it altogether?—He had not been convicted three times as a beerhouse-keeper; they took his licence away.

3815. And then he started a beerhouse?—Yes; if he had been convicted three times, some one else's name would have had to be put up, and he would have been called dead in the trade.

3816. Do not plenty of practices of that sort go on in the licensed victuallers' houses?—They do to some extent, but not equal to the beerhouses.

3817. Mr. *Packe.*] Are there often appeals to the quarter sessions from parties who have been refused a licence?—I never knew a case in Birmingham.

3818. You are aware that there is a power of appeal?—Yes.

3819. But

3819. But you never recollect a case?—No.

3820. *Chairman.*] The magistrates of Birmingham do refuse a great many licences?—Yes; I think we had about 108 applications from beerhouses the last time, and I think the magistrates granted 14. They chose the best houses as far as accommodation was concerned, and they had a guarantee of the good characters of the landlords; they take the locality, and see if there is a house close to it; or if there is one house in a place where there is no thoroughfare, that one house they deem quite sufficient. I know if you put up another house, you bring those two men one against the other, and they allow those things to be done in their houses which they would not do if there was only one house.

3821. Are the Committee to understand your suggestion to be, that the magistrates should have the power immediately of granting spirit licences to beerhouse-keepers?—They have the power to do it now. The idea I offer is this, that you shall have two licences, that is, a beer licence and a spirit licence, like the licensed victuallers' present licence; but both parties shall go to the magistrates; and they would not encourage licensing to the extent the beer trade is now carried on.

3822. Did you ever know the magistrates take a licence away?—I know the case that I have just mentioned. I could name the exact locality. I recollect the one I have named very distinctly; we have had two or three cases of that kind.

3823. What is the penalty usually inflicted upon publicans?—They fine them 5 *l.*, and they also have notice, "If you conduct your house in this manner, your licence will be endangered;" and then the consequence has been, that the man has altered the style of the management his house.

3824. But the fear of being deprived of their licence has probably more influence upon the publican than any one other thing?—No doubt; he may have his capital all invested in that way; he may have conducted his house badly, but upon a notice from the superintendent of police, by the direction of the magistrate, he reforms, which the beerseller has no occasion to do.

3825. That would operate with the beerseller if the licence were taken away?—No, a relative or friend would have his name up directly after; that would not be the case with a licensed victualler.

3826. Mr. *Packe.*] Are there many beerhouses in Birmingham licensed to sell beer to be drunk off the premises only?—Not a great many; I have no objection to any man selling beer to be drunk off the premises, the same as the baker sells bread.

3827. *Chairman.*] Have you many houses in Birmingham where people sell beer and spirits to be drunk on the premises without a licence?—They are not numerous. They can get it from so many places now; I believe there are beerhouses which are open the whole of Saturday night.

3828. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do they sell spirits?—I believe you can have anything; there are houses in Birmingham of that sort, as everybody knows; there are also many respectable people in the beer trade, but there are plenty who will sell you spirits of any kind.

3829. You are aware that a beerhouse-keeper must produce a certificate of character from householders?—Yes; that is easily obtained, because the Excise never trouble themselves to make any inquiries.

3830. A licensed victualler is not required to produce any certificate of character, is he?—The magistrates enforce it; they will not make a transfer to a man coming from Liverpool or Manchester, or any other place, to Birmingham, unless he produces a certificate of character, and then inquiry is made by our superintendent of police of the superintendent of police there; the more respectable you make the licensed victualler, the more advantageous it is to the working man.

3831. Are you aware that some of the magistrates are interested directly or indirectly in distilleries or breweries?—I am not aware of any one myself.

3832. Are you aware that an alderman keeps one of these licensed houses?—Yes; Alderman Phillips; he was here on Friday.

3833. Is he one of the licensing magistrates?—No man interested in the trade can sit upon the bench with regard to licences.

3834. *Chairman.*] Have you any suggestion to make as to the further security to be given by the publican for the payment of the penalties, or finding respectable householders to answer for them?—No.

Mr. *J. Stinton.*

20 June 1854.

3835. Have you any faith in that mode of making publicans more respectable?—No; it is so easy to get men's names to be bound for good behaviour, or anything of that kind; the penalties would be so great that it would be rarely carried out. I think the greatest protection is to be obtained from the magistrates and the police.

3836. If the penalties were not excessive, and the publicans gave proper security, and the system carried out strictly, would not that keep the public-houses in order?—I do not think it would to the same extent as coming under the magistrates, and knowing that the magistrates could take away their licences.

3837. You would rely more upon having some competent authority who could deprive the publican of his licence?—I would give the magistrates the power; that would be more useful and more advantageous.

3838. Do you think the beersellers could find two respectable townsmen to answer for all the penalties which they may have inflicted upon them?—The question would be, how far the word respectable would go.

3839. Solvent to answer the payment of the penalties?—No doubt they could find parties; the Excise never trouble themselves about it. I believe, essentially, it would die away; it is such a difficult thing to know that a man is solvent to make this payment, and to break a man up for another man's faults would be very hard. Here you make a man responsible for himself, by leaving it in the hands of the magistrates.

3840. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do not the Excise see that the house is rated to the required amount?—They take that from the overseers; but there are houses in Birmingham that, perhaps, are not worth more than 6 *l.* or 7 *l.* a year; they have built a little brewhouse at the back, and got the surveyor to advance the rateable value, when the house itself was not worth above half the required value.

3841. Do not the Excise officers examine at all the certificates which are given as to character and respectability?—I never found them do anything of the kind.

3842. *Chairman.*] Perhaps you have had no experience with respect to the mode the Excise deals with beersellers?—I have heard parties connected with the Excise, and I have heard the beerhouse-keepers say that there was no difficulty about it.

3843. Mr. *Sotheron.*] As the law now stands a licence is not forfeited unless the party has been convicted of a third offence?—No, it is not.

3844 Can you make any suggestion for the alteration of that provision?—My suggestion is, that the granting of the licences to beersellers should be under the control of the magistrates; that would cure the evil; if they did not carry on their houses in a proper manner the magistrates should have the same power over the beerhouses as over the licensed houses, to take away the licence.

3845. Do you think it would be desirable to restrict it, and say, that the licence should be forfeited upon a second offence, or upon a first offence, if the character of that offence is a grave one?—There is so much difficulty in carrying out this forfeiture; what is every one's business is nobody's business. If a man comes annually before the magistrates to have his licence granted, as the licensed victuallers do annually, that man's character is brought before them; but the beerseller, under the present system, is never brought before the magistrates, and never before the Excise, unless some one chooses to go to a heavy expense.

3846. Do you think the annual obligation of appearing before the magistrates, if it were imposed upon the beersellers as well as the publicans, would be a great check?—Yes.

3847. Do you think that in the case of a publican or a beerhouse-keeper, with respect to the renewal of his licence, it would be a desirable thing to make the law more efficacious than it is at present with regard to the forfeiture of his licence; let them both go annually before the magistrates for the renewal of their licence; but supposing in the interval between the annual licensing days either a publican or a beerseller is found to be guilty of a flagrant offence, are you of opinion that it would be desirable that he should incur the risk of forfeiting his licence, not upon the first offence, but upon the second or third if it were of a grave character?—I should leave it in the hands of the magistrates, rather than lay down any positive rule, according to the character of the offence; the magistrates would weigh it, and sit in judgment upon the licences of those men; they get information from the police; the police book is brought before them, and such a charge against such a man is found; the superintendent of police gives a sort

of

of intimation, "You are breaking the law; look out for your licence;" that is a salutary check.

3848. As the law now stands, the magistrates cannot declare the forfeiture of a licence unless the man has been convicted three times?—Yes; the licensed victuallers.

3849. Can they upon a first offence?—I believe so; I will not be positive upon that point.

3850. *Chairman.*] The magistrates may refuse to renew the licence?—Yes; at the licensing, at the end of the year.

3851. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Annually, at the licensing day, the magistrate, of his own knowledge, may or not renew that licence?—Exactly.

3852. At any other time than the licensing day the law requires that three offences should be proved in order to justify the taking away the licence?—It does not require three offences with a licensed victualler. It is three offences with a beerseller, and the law takes away his licence; but you have to go through a great process after those three offences have been committed to bring the case before the Excise, and the process is rather an expensive one.

3853. Do you propose, so far as the forfeiture of the licence is concerned, that the publicans and beersellers should be put upon exactly the same footing?—Yes; and the magistrates are the best authorities.

3854. Do you think it would be a sufficient hold upon the ill conduct of beersellers, as well as the ill conduct of publicans, in the intervals between the licensing days?—I have no doubt of it, because no punishment at all takes place now; but the very fact of the magistrates stopping a licence, would be a check upon the beerseller. Though I may have but 100 *l.* in this house, it is my 100 *l.*, and if I do not carry on this house in a correct manner I lose it; under the present system the beerseller does not lose it; he may go to the Excise office and take a licence away under some other name.

3855. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do not you think if the parties gave certificates of character, and inquiries were made to some extent as to whom the licences were given, that that would check and regulate the beersellers?—If the punishment were carried out very severely; but to some degree you are visiting a second person for the offence of the first, whereas, according to the system of licensing by the magistrates, you at once visit the man who does the wrong.

3856. *Chairman.*] Should you think it an improvement if the licence were granted to the person, and not to the house?—That is rather a difficult question.

3857. Perhaps you are not prepared, on behalf of the publicans, to give an answer to that question?—I should not like to do so. Very many persons have invested a large amount of property in buying a licensed house. If you take away the licence from the house, you would depreciate its value, I dare say.

3858. Supposing a person were entitled to a licence, so long as he conducted that house properly he need not lose that house, but you make it more dependent upon his character if you grant it to the person?—Yes.

3859. Mr. *Packe.*] Might it not happen that he might take his licence to a locality where it might not be so advantageous to the public?—Yes. I do not see how you could make the licence belong to the man. If the licence belonged to the man, he would say, "I am going to leave this house, and I shall go into some other locality." I think the house is the best security against a man who invests his money in a public-house. That is a sufficient check, I think, against bad conduct, with the knowledge that he is likely to lose it.

Mr. *John James Homer*, called in; and Examined.

3860. *Chairman.*] YOU are a wholesale wine and spirit merchant in London?—Yes.

3861. You have been so for some years past?—Yes.

3862. I believe you also carry on the public-house business?—I do, and have done upwards of 20 years.

3863. Do you superintend both businesses?—I do.

3864. Are you a member of any association connected with the licensed victuallers?—I am a member of the Committee of the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society of London, and also of the Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers, and I have been so for some 10 or 11 years; 9 years the one, and 11 or 12 years the other.

Mr. *J. J. Homer.*

20 June 1854.

3865. I believe they have recognised the great services that you have rendered to them by presenting you a testimonial?—They have.

3866. You are aware that there has been a great deal of evidence given to this Committee, as well as many petitions presented to the House, praying that public-houses may be closed still further than they are at present on Sunday?—Yes.

3867. Will you state to this Committee what you consider to be the bearing of that proposition upon the interests of the publicans in the metropolis?—Perhaps you will permit me just to state to the Committee, that the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society, in the year 1836, was the cause of a Bill being brought into the House of Commons, through Mr. Hawes, "for the better regulation and management of inns, alehouses, and victualling-houses on the Lord's-day, and for facilitating the transfer of licences."

3868. In what way does that Bill affect Sunday trading?—I mention that merely to show that the licensed victuallers were anxious to prevent drunkenness and immorality at that period. I should say that the Bill passed through the House of Commons, and went to the House of Lords, where some amendment or omission was made. Lord Wharncliffe moved the omission of the word "beer-houses" throughout the Bill. It went back to the House of Commons; the House was counted out, and the Bill was therefore lost.

3869. You are referring to a Bill which never passed?—Yes. I merely mention that to show the feeling of the trade upon the subject at that time. I have an extract from a report which the committee made to the members of the society afterwards, in which they regretted very much that the Bill was lost.

3870. What committee are you referring to?—The committee of the Protection Society.

3871. To whom was that report made?—To the members of the society; it is in these words: "The committee during the past year again directed their attention to the introduction of a Bill to amend the law as it regarded informations exhibited against licensed victuallers, to render the transfer of licences more easy and secure, and to define the hours of keeping open their houses on Saturday night and the Sundays following; and although this Bill might have inflicted a partial loss on the trade generally, yet with a noble spirit of self-denial it was approved of by a public meeting after full discussion, introduced by Mr. Hawes, the Member for Lambeth, and passed the Houses of Commons and Lords, but was thrown out the last day of the Session by Mr. Warburton persisting in the introduction of a clause not needed, and only intended still further to increase the mischief arising from the licensing of beershops. To your committee this has been a source of deep regret, but they cannot conclude without saying that to Mr. Hawes, for his constant exertions to get the Bill passed, and his unvarying courtesy to the committee, the thanks of this society are eminently due."

3872. Mr. *Gregson.*] Although the Bill was thrown out, is it not the case that several clauses were subsequently embodied in the Police Act?—Yes, and they ultimately became the law of the land.

3873. *Chairman.*] That is the origin of closing the public-houses on Saturday night and Sunday morning?—Yes.

3874. You state that to show that the interest of the publicans did not prevent their doing that which they thought was for the good of the people?—Exactly; I would take the liberty of saying, from what I know of the feelings of the trade in reference to the present movement, that if they could see that the great masses of the people, the working classes, were in favour of entirely closing the public-houses on Sunday, or that such a law could be carried out, they would be equally as anxious to assist in that movement, and also to support any measure which was brought in with that view; but we feel perfectly satisfied, after deliberation upon the subject, that it would be utterly impossible to carry out such a law, and that such a law would be evaded, and that it would be a great infringement upon the comforts and liberties of the people.

3875. Do you remember the movement for closing the public-houses on Saturday night and Sunday morning?—I do.

3876. Though your society did not object, and in fact promoted the Bill, do you know that certain individuals in the trade were apprehensive of great loss of custom?—No doubt all lost custom; and some more than others.

3877. I presume the same arguments were used then which are used now against further

further closing, that it would be an infringement upon the right of the subject?—It is just possible that the same arguments may have been used.

3878. That measure has not been attended with any injury to the publican, and it has been attended with great advantage to the people?—It has been attended with a loss of trade to the publicans, which has never been recovered.

3879. Speaking generally, is not the trade in a very flourishing state?—I think there are very few men who are realising any money in the trade now, excepting in peculiar situations.

3880. There are funds which seem to be connected with the Licensed Victuallers' Association, charities, and other things; they would appear to have funds coming from some source?—In order to show that the trade is not in a very healthy state now I should say, that as to the licensed victuallers' schools there has not been a single 10 guineas, or one guinea, subscribed during the last three months; the trade has been so bad as that.

3881. Do you mean this year?—Yes; last year there were some hundreds of pounds subscribed.

3882. Can you tell the Committee precisely what induced the society to which you have referred to promote this Bill, which seemed to injure the business of the trade?—I think the licensed victuallers themselves had very much increased in respectability, and they were anxious to suppress the drunkenness which, to a considerable extent, took place on Sunday morning, and they wished to promote the interests of society generally. These were the objects which induced them to support that Bill.

3883. I presume that drunkenness is a great nuisance to the publican, though it is to his advantage to sell as much drink as possible; did the trade find that drunkenness took place more on Saturday night and Sunday morning than at any other time?—No doubt.

3884. That was in consequence of people having their wages paid on Saturday, and having leisure on Sunday morning?—No doubt.

3885. Have you anything to oppose to the statement which is so generally made in the petitions by the persons who are parties to them, that for the same reasons drunkenness still takes place on Saturday night and Sunday, but particularly on Sunday?—My impression is that not much drunkenness takes place on Sunday, taking the entire day; it takes place on Saturday. There is a great deal of drunkenness on Sunday morning, and I believe not only the beershops but some licensed victuallers infringe the law on Sunday morning. That I think is a great evil, and some remedy should be found to prevent it; I mean to prevent persons selling during the prohibited hours on Sunday.

3886. Is it the fact, in the first place, that there are a number of persons who attend those houses on Sunday, and are not there a greater number on Sunday evening than any other evening?—I should think not a greater number. In some cases there are much greater numbers; in tea-gardens and other places, there are much larger numbers.

3887. Are there not gin palaces which may be seen crammed full, holding 60, 30, and 40 people on Sunday?—I do not think there are nearly so many as that on Sunday night, in one house.

3888. Mr. *Gregson.*] With the exception of Saturday night, are there not more people in the gin palaces on Sunday, than on any other days?—Probably it may be so; but those houses are very well conducted.

3889. *Chairman.*] Have you any ground for stating that there is less drunkenness on Sunday night?—As far as my own observation has gone with regard to closing public-houses altogether on Sunday, I think it could not be carried out. I believe a large body of the people would be against such a measure passing. I would ask the Committee to look at the inconvenience which would necessarily arise to the people. Suppose, for instance, that an excursion train were to convey to Brighton on Sunday 3,000 persons; they would be distributed throughout the town, but principally along the beach, as I have seen them. Supposing the public-houses were closed, and that the people took down what provisions and beer they wanted, and it came on to rain just about one o'clock, and the houses were not open, you would have 3,000 persons in Brighton, and where could they go to? There would be but few places for them to go to unless the public-houses were open, and certainly not a sufficient amount of accommodation for them.

Mr. J. J. Homer.

20 June 1854.

3890. Do you think there would be no other houses unless they could sell spirituous liquors and beer?—I hardly think there would.

3891. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Would not there be coffee-shops?—It is just possible, but there would not be a sufficient number.

3892. Would not there be more open?—Not for that one day in the week; it would not be worth their while to run the risk, because if it happened to be a fine day the people would be luxuriating in the air. I am only saying that it would be a great inconvenience, because many of those people would be unable to take a cab and go to an hotel, and have their dinner, and all that sort of thing.

3893. *Chairman.*] You are now mentioning the inconvenience to travellers?—The inconvenience to excursionists. Then again I would refer to some of the public parks, with respect to which another inconvenience would arise to the working classes. There is Greenwich Park, for instance, Richmond Park, Regent's Park, Victoria Park, Hyde Park, Battersea Park, Kew Gardens, Erith Gardens, North Woolwich Gardens, Rosherville Gardens, Gravesend, Hampton Court, Hampstead Heath, Primrose Hill, and a great number of other places round London. Fancy those people walking about in the parks, with no public-houses open; beer and ale is the great national beverage, and it is obvious that numbers on the Sunday could not carry it about with them. Look at the inconvenience which would arise to those people if it came on to rain about five or six o'clock in the evening, as it did a few Sundays ago in torrents, and never left off that night. I recollect I had been out dining at Hertford; I came home in a cab about 11 or 12 o'clock; it is very unusual for my house to be open at that time; I found several persons in the house; both the women and the men were respectably dressed in their new summer clothing. I said, "How is it the house is open so late?" The barmaid said, "We could not turn them out; I did not like to turn them out; they have been trying to get omnibuses and cabs for the last four hours." I said, "There is a cab for them; now they can go away."

3894. The present movement is not to prevent people getting shelter in the case of a shower, but it is to prevent the sale of intoxicating drink when it is most likely to take place. That desire is founded upon the great evil which results from drinking on Sunday evening, seeing that the people not only drink at that time, but they are rendered incapable of going to work on Monday morning, when they begin to drink again?—I do not think there is much drunkenness on Sunday evening; with reference to London, I should say there is very little.

3895. You have referred to the custom of your own house, of closing at 11 o'clock on Sunday?—There is little to do at Hackney; I might close at any time on Sunday evening; it is very different in other districts.

3896. Do you see any inconvenience in closing the public-houses earlier on Sunday?—I do not see that it would be any inconvenience to me; I do now close a portion of my establishment in which I carry on my family trade, and which is conducted on this principle: I do not allow anything to be drunk there; persons may have a single bottle of spirits or wine; it is fitted up like a merchant's counting-house; is entirely closed on the Sunday; respectable people can send for a half a dozen or a dozen bottles of gin, or stout or ale, on Saturday, and there is no inconvenience arising from its being closed on Sunday to the public.

3897. Can you, by law, sell by retail upon those premises?—Yes.

3898. Can you sell less than two gallons?—Yes, it is all under one set of premises; I used to have a wholesale licence for that department; but I now pay for my wholesale wine and spirit licences, in the city, 20 guineas a year.

3899. You are speaking of your wholesale department?—No, I was referring to my house at Hackney.

3900. Have you a licence like a licensed victualler?—Yes; that card will show the division in the house (*handing in the same*).

3901. Mr. *Gregson.*] Have you a retail licence?—Yes, for my place at Hackney; one part of the house is used as a family department.

3902. *Chairman.*] The family department is where you supply a quantity at a time?—Where I supply a single bottle of spirits or wine.

3903. Not to be drunk on the premises?—I never allow any drinking in that department.

3904. You do not allow anybody to fetch away a bottle of spirits from your premises on Sunday?—Not from that department.

3905. Is it under the same roof as where you allow the people to drink on the premises?—Yes.

3906. Do you publish an almanack?—Yes.

3907. Is not the mode described there in which you conduct two businesses, wholesale and retail?—Yes.

3908. Your premises are not the same as when the almanac was published?—Yes, last year.

3909. Does not the almanac refer to some difficulty which the law presents in selling less than two gallons upon those premises?—I do not know; it is just possible.

3910. Is not there some reference in the almanac to the place where you sell a small quantity?—I think I have made a reference of that description.

3911. Mr. *Gregson.*] Have you a copy of your almanac?—No, I have not.

3912. *Chairman.*] Is this your almanac (*showing a paper to the Witness*)?—Yes.

3913. I see at the bottom you state this: "As many persons have been disappointed at Mr. Homer not being able to send out less than two gallons of spirits from his stock, 2, Royal Exchange Buildings, and 22, Finch-lane, Cornhill, he takes the opportunity of saying that the Excise laws interdict, under a heavy penalty, any wholesale dealer from selling a less quantity than two gallons. Mr. H. begs, however, to state, that for the convenience of his friends and the public, he has received, and will continue to receive, small orders at his city offices, and promptly execute them from his Hackney branch." You have another house at Hackney?—My retail establishment is at Hackney.

3914. The Excise laws present a difficulty in selling a smaller quantity than two gallons upon the wholesale premises?—Yes.

3915. Is there not some inconvenience to the public in being limited to two gallons?—Not any.

3916. Have you not heard of any?—I have heard some gentlemen complain of it when they have been going to watering and other places. A Bill was brought in, which was called the Maraschino Bill; I had the honour of having interviews with the Chairman of Excise, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord John Russell, and many other members of the Government at the time. I think we clearly showed that if the Excise authorities could not prevent a "few wholesale dealers," at watering and other places, from selling a less quantity than two gallons of spirits, and that restriction was further relaxed as proposed, the evil would be frightfully increased; for instance, if a grocer, in addition to a wholesale ten guinea licence, were allowed to take out a two guinea retail licence to sell spirits, we maintained, that as the revenue officers could not prevent such wholesale dealers as Hedges and Butler at Brighton, or Fortnum and Mason, from selling less than two gallons, they would not be able to prevent a grocer from selling a twelfth part of a bottle, which is about half a quartern, to any person who went to his house. That was one of the grounds of objection to the Bill.

3917. You object to a grocer or any other tradesman selling a small quantity of spirits in a bottle not to be drunk on the premises?—Yes.

3918. You say this limitation to two gallons by the wholesale merchant is attended with no inconvenience?—I think not.

3919. Where they are not in possession of another house, is there not an inconvenience?—I do not think there is; there is every facility for getting spirits at other houses.

3920. If persons go to a public-house?—Yes. Perhaps the Committee will allow me to state the grounds upon which the Maraschino Bill was supported by Mr. Wood, the chairman of Excise. He said, "We cannot get as good spirits at hotels, taverns, public-houses, and liquor shops, as we can at our private wine-merchants, and it is very inconvenient to go where there is drinking across the counter." I have met this difficulty by an alteration in my house at Hackney, and I have found it answer my purpose; parties can get a very good bottle of wine or spirits, and they are very well satisfied. I find a great number of houses situated as mine is, a little distance from London, doing precisely the same thing, and that has given a large amount of satisfaction, and has removed one of the principal arguments that was used by Mr. Wood at that time, in favour of the Maraschino Bill.

3921. If it can be done in this sort of way, is it not an evasion of the law?—No, not at all.

Mr. *J. J. Homer.*

20 June 1854.

3922. What is the policy of the law, as you conceive it; is it to prevent any person selling less than two gallons?—It is a protection to the retail dealers.

3923. Mr. *Gregson.*] Would not you allow the parties you have named, Hedges and Butler, or Fortnum and Mason, to have a similar department, the same as you have, upon paying for a licence?—No, why should they; they are wholesale dealers.

3924. You have a family department?—Yes, but I have a retail licence to that house; I paid an extra 10 guineas for a wholesale licence, which made 27 guineas a year; it now costs me 37 guineas a year for licences.

3925. If the other parties paid 10 guineas, would not you consider them equally entitled to sell a single bottle?—I think it would be an infringement upon the business of the licensed victualler; the great mass of the people do not ask for it; it is only a few gentlemen who go out of town, who support such a change of the law. Spirits are easily obtained at hotels and taverns.

3926. *Chairman.*] Is it not sometimes alleged that there is an objection to send to a public-house?—That objection is removed by the way in which I have altered my premises; I have clergymen and ladies come into my place, because the entrance to it is private, and I do not allow any drinking therein.

3927. In fact, with bottle licences you conduct the business of an ordinary publican on those premises?—I have a publican's licence.

3928. Supposing you chose to sell less than two gallons in your other department, how would it be known?—I do sell less than two gallons; it is under one licence.

3929. You have a wholesale department under the same roof?—I had.

3930. If you sold less than two gallons in that department, the Excise could have no check upon you?—I should be doing it legally; it is under one set of premises regulated by the Excise.

3931. I think you admit that in the present state of the law there is no inconvenience to you in the way in which you conduct your business?—No; I have got over, as have a large number of other publicans, the great objection which was raised in favour of the Maraschino Bill.

3932. Have the Excise ever interfered with you for selling less than two gallons?—Never. With reference to closing public-houses on Sunday, I may state to the Committee, although I dare say they know it, that there are an immense number of persons in London who have lodgings, who go about on the Sunday, and who frequent the public-houses; those persons would be very much inconvenienced indeed, if the public-houses were closed.

3933. You mean if places where spirits were sold were closed?—Yes, as suggested, on Sunday.

3934. You keep that distinction in your mind, that a public-house may exist without selling spirits; but, as I understand, the object of the persons engaged in this movement is to prevent drunkenness, and not going to a place like a coffee-shop?—My impression is that the people do not get drunk on the Sunday, as far as I have been able to see them. I have been to all the parks on Sunday; I have seen them take a little refreshment, and then walk home comfortably. With regard to petitions in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday, everybody knows that they have been got up by a systematic organisation by persons who have been agitating for the last 20 years, in favour of closing parks, every place of innocent amusement, stopping excursions, and all that sort of thing. If they succeeded in closing the public-houses, no doubt the next movement would be immediately to close the parks and open spaces, and stop excursion trains and steamboats; they can call a regular piece of machinery into requisition to get up an immense number of petitions in favour of such a movement, as they have in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday.

3935. There are two classes; it is not confined to the class to which you are pointing; there are the teetotallers?—The temperance people would shut us up altogether, so that we should not sell any spirits.

3936. There is an example of that class of persons in the United States; they are not the people you are referring to, I think; those who have a desire for the better observance of the Lord's Day?—I do not know who they are; I have no idea.

3937. Mr. *Gregson.*] You do not so much object to closing public-houses, but that

that it would lead to a further closing of parks and gardens?—I object to closing the public-houses on Sunday, as is proposed. I think such an enactment would be a stepping-stone to closing parks and other place of recreation on the Sunday.

3938. You have said it would be a loss to the publicans by closing the public-houses on Sunday; the publicans would be only put in the same situation as other tradesmen who close on Sunday?—It would be a loss, no doubt, to the licensed victuallers, but it would be a larger amount of inconvenience to the public; the fact is, the law could not be carried out; there are many thousands of persons who go out on Sunday, and they must have a glass of ale or beer, which is the national beverage. For instance, this place of mine at Hackney; my cellarman is away on the Sunday, and the man who looks after the horses is not there; in consequence of this movement my other servants made an application to me to allow them to go out; they said, "It would not be much inconvenience if you were to close altogether on Sunday, and we should like to have our Sundays to ourselves, as well as so and so." I said, "I cannot comply with that request, but I will tell you what I will do; we can do it in this neighbourhood; we will open from one to three; we will close at three instead of half-past three, as Divine service does not begin till half-past three, and we will not open till seven; that will give you four hours"; we can do that very well in our place, but it will be very inconvenient at tea gardens and other places to which people resort out of London before seven in the evening.

3939. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Did you carry out your proposition?—I did.

3940. What was the result?—A diminution of the amount of takings, I did not think that was of much consequence; it was a relaxation to my servants, and I could afford to do it; and so could others in neighbourhoods which are strongly imbued with sectarian feelings; such a person as Mr. Maber can very easily close all day on Sunday, at Islington. I should think he would ingratiate himself with the people of Islington, and get a large amount of private trade by so doing.

3941. Do you carry that on now?—I do; it has only been done since this movement in favour of Sunday closing began; and I have no doubt my servants made the application in consequence.

3942. Do you find that the increase of applications during the time the public-house is kept open makes up for what you lose during the hours it is shut up?—No; we do not take so much on Sunday by perhaps 2 *l.* as we should if we opened at five o'clock. The moment we open at seven, we are some distance from the Park, and the people are straggling, some in one direction and some in the other. I am not frequently at home on Sunday; but I am told that the moment the house is open on Sunday, the people come in for "A glass of beer," "A glass of porter," "A glass of bitter ale," "A glass of sherry," and all that sort of thing; those people walk in, have their refreshment, and then go out again.

3943. Mr. *Gregson.*] Does not divine service commence in the evening at seven o'clock?—Yes. There is an anomaly in the law in London as regards the time of closing of public-houses in the afternoon; some close at three, and open at half-past four; some keep open altogether, others close at six and open at eight.

3944. *Chairman.*] Is that optional?—No; the magistrates say, "You shall close," in some districts.

3945. Mr. *Sotheron.*] Is it not according to the time of Church service?—Yes; there is Church service in South Hackney, and in many places, but the publicans are not called upon to close in the evening.

3946. Are the periods during which the magistrates require the houses to be closed regulated by the actual hours during which the Church service is carried on, or are they fixed arbitrarily by the magistrates as they please?—They are fixed arbitrarily by the magistrates in some districts.

3947. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is there service in the evening in Hackney?—There has been during the present rector's time; during Dr. Norris's time there was not.

3948. I think you are obliged to close during Divine service at seven o'clock?—I think there should be greater uniformity in the law; I do not think, so far as London is concerned, that there would be any objection at all to closing from three to six, and I think it would do a great deal of good.

3949. *Chairman.*] The time of closing now is from three to five?—Some close from three to five, and some open again at half-past four. The law in that respect requires alteration; one person's public-house on one side of the street is open in the afternoon and closed in the evening, and *vice versâ.*

Mr. *J. J. Homer.*

20 June 1854.

3950. What do you mean by its doing a great deal of good; do you mean that it would give the people in the publican's establishment an opportunity to be out?—Yes; they like that for one thing; I do not think, so far as the opinion and feeling of the trade of London is concerned, that they would object much to it.

3951. Are there not many publicans who wish to have all day on Sunday to themselves, like other tradesmen?—There are differences of opinion in our trade, on that point.

3952. Are you not aware that many publicans are of that opinion, and for that purpose have signed petitions in favour of Sunday closing?—I believe a great many publicans have hardly looked at the question; they have simply signed the petition because they have been asked.

3953. Mr. *Gregson.*] What do you think of limiting the hours of opening from one to three?—I think such a limitation would interfere with the comforts and convenience of the public.

3594. *Chairman.*] How do you account for the people themselves not making any stir; it does not seem that the working people are opposing meetings in favour of this movement when they take place?—I am about London pretty well all day; of course, having a wholesale business, I am trying to get custom amongst the licensed victuallers; and I have asked their opinion, and what their customers say, "Oh," they say, "we know how these petitions are got up; they will be treated with just the same respect as the Chartist petitions; it is of no use our stirring in the matter." Others say, "We are perfectly satisfied that the House of Commons, as at present constituted, will not pass one law for the rich and another for the poor; and whilst hotels and club-houses are open, at which the rich can get wine, and what they please, they will not shut the public-houses and oblige the poor man to go without his pot of beer on Sunday."

3955. With respect to closing the public-houses on Sunday morning, there were petitions and some agitation against, but the thing was done, and every one seems to be pleased with the result?—No doubt, and the licensed victuallers were anxious for closing to that extent.

3956. Mr. *Gregson.*] If it is so easy to get up petitions, why are there no petitions on the other side?—There is nothing tangible to deal with, as it appears to me, and as it appears to everybody; there have been a number of petitions presented in favour of this movement. When Mr. Adderley gave notice to call the attention of the House to the subject of those petitions we had an interview with him upon the subject; he said that several Members of the House had been unsuccessfully applied to with a view of calling attention to the matter, and that he was induced to do so, but he saw that the thing was beset with difficulties. Our object in seeing him was just this, to ascertain what the nature of his Bill was; whether it went to entirely closing public-houses on Sunday, and if that had been the nature of his Bill, of course we should have said to the people, "Here is something to deal with; here is a motion about to be brought into the House to close the public-houses on Sunday; will you agree to it or not?" and I have no hesitation in saying that the masses of the people would not have agreed to it, and there would have been an immense number of petitions against the motion, signed by a larger number of people than the petitions in favour of it.

3957. *Chairman.*] Are you not aware that the working people have attended the public meetings, and had notice of them, and so far as we know, at all the meetings some of their body have spoken in favour of Sunday closing?—It is of no use for some classes of people to go to such meetings, they would not be heard. In illustration of that, I may mention that there was a meeting called in our neighbourhood by the teetotallers. I went merely to hear what sort of arguments those people used, and I got up into a corner of the room, where I thought I should not be seen; but I had not been there long before somebody recognised me, and if it had not been for some men who knew me, I do not know what I should have done. Several women rushed at me, and attempted to scratch my face; and the man who was lecturing said there was blood on my head, blood on my house, blood on my forehead, and on my children, and I should go to hell. I thought that was very intemperate language, and I did not come there to be insulted.

3958. Mr. *Gregson.*] I presume the women were so fierce because you sold intoxicating drink to their husbands?—Yes; I did get out without being hurt, but

but it was rumoured in the neighbourhood that I intended to go and speak against teetotalism at the next meeting, and the consequence was that the place was crammed to excess. The lecturer said, "If you drink nothing but water, you will be as strong as elephants." There were roars of laughter, and two men that I know, who were laughing loudly, upon the police being called in, were given into custody; they brought actions for false imprisonment, and they both recovered damages. The people do not go to those meetings, because they know how they are got up; let meetings be held on the opposite side, in reference to closing public-houses entirely on Sunday, and you will see what the result will be.

3959. The people were so enthusiastic in the cause, that they could not see a licensed victualler present with composure?—No.

3960. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Who were taken up?—Two respectable tradesmen in my parish, a builder and a butcher; they could not help laughing at the ridiculous arguments which were used in favour of those extreme views, and they were taken up for causing what was called a disturbance at the meeting; they brought separate actions in the Court of Exchequer, and both of them recovered damages, because it was held that, according to the notice that was given, it was to be an open discussion. In consequence of my going to the meeting referred to, they had altered the wording of the bill calling the meeting, and consequently anybody was allowed to go. If the meeting had been merely to discuss the principles of teetotalism, then those people would have had no business there who differed with them in their opinion.

3961. Mr. *Gregson.*] You would have been admitted upon the last occasion?—Decidedly; I should not have been an intruder then. I know that the public meetings which have been called with reference to the Sunday closing movement have been got up in a systematic manner, and that it has been well done everybody must admit.

3962. *Chairman.*] Your evidence goes to this, that there would be great inconvenience from closing the public-houses on Sunday; and that, if a Bill were actually introduced for that purpose into the House, the people would manifest their feelings?—I think they would. To show that we were alive to this subject, and that we intended to take steps in the event of Mr. Adderley bringing forward his motion, a letter was prepared on the subject, and would have been sent to Lord Palmerston, on which we pointed out the impracticability of carrying out such a law, supposing Mr. Adderley had not withdrawn his motion.

3963. You speak in behalf of the society?—Yes.

3994. Lord *D. Stuart.*] You think that there has been no kind of movement on this occasion, from the persuasion amongst the people that there is no chance of such a measure being introduced?—That is decidedly their opinion.

3965. *Chairman.*] You have admitted that drunkenness has diminished in consequence of closing the public-houses on Sunday morning?—Yes.

3966. Have you any opinion to offer to this Committee with respect to the different modes in which publicans and beer-sellers obtain their licences?—No, I do not know that I have. My impression is, and I believe it is the same with a large number of our trade, that it would add very much to their respectability if they were all under magisterial control, beershops as well as licensed publicans.

3967. Do you mean if they got their licences from the magistrates?—Yes.

3968. You are aware that the beer-sellers are as much subject to the control of the magistrates as the licensed victuallers, so far as breaking the law goes?—Yes.

3969. You think if they got their licences from the magistrates it would add to the respectability of the trade?—No doubt.

3970. Would you distinguish the business of the publican as it is now by the law, and allow some to take beer licences and some to take spirit and beer licences?—Yes; so that it should be understood by a man who took a beer licence that it was not to be a stepping-stone to getting a spirit licence.

3971. Do you see any disadvantage to the trade in one man taking out a licence to sell beer only?—No; and if he obtained that licence from the magistrates, I think he would have a greater reverence for the laws.

3972. At present it does not require much to get a beer licence?—No; it is a very simple application.

3973. There is not much paid for a licence, and not much capital required to start such a business?—No.

3974. If one licence were given to conduct the publican's business, do you think that there would be so many of those poor beershops which now exist,

Mr. *J. J. Homer.*

20 June 1854.

because the trade may be carried on separately?—It would diminish them to a very considerable extent.

3975. Do you think that if one licence were granted for the sale of beer and spirits, and the publican who got his licence had to stock his house with everything which a publican's business required, he would require a larger capital than a beershop-keeper?—Yes; I think there ought to be two licences as there are now, a beer licence and a public-house licence, that is, a licence to retail beer, and a licence also to retail beer and spirits; but they should be quite distinct.

3976. Would you object to the plan of giving to a person one licence to carry on the business of a publican, and not to the house?—I should object to that.

3977. Would you object to that on the ground of the interest of the trade?—I should object to it on the ground of the interest of the trade, and also with respect to the morals of the people. I think it would be objectionable on those two grounds.

3978. Supposing there were no capital invested at present in the trade, what injury would it be to the trade if one public-house licence was only granted?—I do not know that it could then be any injury to the licensed victuallers, but it would be no advantage to the public, becaus there would be no control over the publican with respect to public morals.

3979. You mean a control afterwards as to the conduct of the house?—The control of granting the licence, and the control of the house afterwards.

3980. You think that they ought to be subject to peculiar regulation?—Certainly.

3981. From your experience of the trade?—Decidedly. There has been a good deal said about the partiality of the licensing magistrates and their favoritism; I think that a great deal that has been said is perfectly untrue. I carry on my retail trade in the Tower Hamlets, where I have been for upwards of 20 years, and I have conducted my house without a single complaint being made against me, because I have strictly adhered to the law, and because I knew the heavy responsibility I incur from not doing so. I have closely watched the conduct of the magistrates, and on some occasions when I thought they had been too arbitrary I have reprehended them through the medium of the public press, and that has had a salutary effect; on the contrary, I have commended them if they have done right. When I saw the last return I think there were nearly 1,200 licensed victuallers residing in the Borough of the Tower Hamlets, that is nearly one-fifth of the whole of the metropolitan districts; and there the magistrates have exercised their functions generally to the satisfaction of the people.

3982. They seem to be subject to a control which other magistrates are not; they seem to have somebody connected with the press to notice their conduct when they do not act properly?—I do not think that is so much the case; perhaps that may have some influence over them, I think it has over everybody; I will give you one or two cases in support of my assertion: Mr. Jones applied for a licence for a house at the corner of New Road, Whitechapel. Mr. Jones held an agreement for a lease of Mr. Bernal who was then the chairman of the licensing bench of magistrates, he applied several consecutive years unsuccessfully, and that seems to be a proof of the impartial and independent manner in which the magistrates of the Tower Hamlets perform their functions.

3983. They refused the licence?—Yes, notwithstanding that the house belonged to their own chairman.

3984. Does the chairman of the bench of magistrates answer to the chairman of the licensing bench?—Yes.

3985. And yet the other magistrates refused to license his tenant?—They refused to license the house, and that has been for some years made into a linen-draper's shop, because they found that they could not get the licence.

3986. Upon what ground was a licence refused?—Because it was not wanted; it would have been licensing a house where there was no additional neighbourhood at all, and increasing the value of the property, and putting money into a brother magistrate's pocket; that shows the purity of the magistrates in not granting a licence, or even increasing the value of a house belonging to one of their own body.

3987. It could occur that an application might be made by a tenant of a magistrate who would put money into his pocket by granting a licence?—It could be done.

3988. But in the Tower Hamlets, where the magistrates are a little under dread

dread of the press, it is not done?—I do not know that it is from a dread of the press, but it is not done. I can mention another case. There is a person who has been a servant to the present chairman, and who, when he left his service, thought he would take a public-house with the view of bettering his condition; his master said, "You have been a good and faithful servant, and if I can forward your interest in any way, I will do so." The man went into several houses, and at last took a beershop in Wood-street; he then asked for his master's assistance to obtain a licence; his master went and looked at the place; he found there was no increase in the neighbourhood at all, and he told him he could not comply with his request, because there were no public-grounds upon which he could support such an application.

3989. The master being a licensing magistrate?—Yes; and he was anxious to promote the interests of his servant, because he had been a faithful servant; it has also been said that a large amount of influence is brought to bear upon the magistrates from political considerations, and all that sort of thing. I can only say, that I have been an elector for the borough of Tower Hamlets ever since it has been enfranchised; and neither directly nor indirectly have I asked a favour of one of the licensing bench, although I have taken a prominent part at every general election for 24 years.

3990. But you have had your licence for a number of years?—Upwards of 20 years.

3991. No licence is refused when application for a renewal is made?—No, unless there is good grounds for refusal.

3992. Your house has been conducted well; it is no favour to renew the licence?—No; other licensed victuallers have left their houses, and if they have taken a prominent part at elections, it is said that that would influence the magistrates, and that although there were no public grounds for a licence, they would grant a licence to those parties. Several persons have come to me, and said "You have influence with the magistrates;" and I have said, "I have none, and I would not exercise it if I had." "You supported Sir William Clay, and you have supported other persons." I said, "I have, it is very true, but it has nothing to do with it; I would not ask such a favour, and if I did I am perfectly certain it would not be granted."

3993. Is it not the fact that applications for licences are more numerous after an election, than before?—Yes.

3994. Are not more licences granted?—There were 75 applications last year, and only 13 or 14 were granted. I may further be permitted to mention that there was an application made by a man of the name of Coste, in Great Cambridge-street, Hackney Road; he had been very industrious at the late election.

3995. For one of the candidates?—For both Sir William Clay and Mr. Butler; there was a large amount of influence brought to bear upon the magistrates, with a view of getting him a licence, but it was not found that there was any necessity for another house in that locality; a few houses had been put up, but not sufficient to justify the magistrates in granting that licence; the parochial authorities signed the petition, and a large amount of interest was brought to bear upon the magistrates to get this licence, but the man was disappointed; he did not get it.

3996. Was he opposed?—Yes, by the licensed victuallers and others.

3997. The licensed victuallers object to new licences being granted?—Yes.

3998. Mr. *Brown.*] Of course they would not support any person applying for a new licence?—I do not think it is their interest to do so.

3999. *Chairman.*] Upon what ground do the licensed victuallers object to new licences?—If there is nothing to warrant the application; it very frequently happens that a person applies for a licence and it is unopposed; a case happened not a great distance from me; a man applied for a licence in quite a new neighbourhood; a few years ago the ground was unoccupied, but now there are 35 houses created on it; a public-house was built at a little distance from two or three other public-houses; the magistrates thought there was a necessity for it, the publicans did not oppose it, and the licence was granted.

4000. Are Sir William Clay and Mr. Butler both magistrates?—Both of them.

4001. Not acting there?—Sir William Clay does not act in our division; he acts in his own division, I suppose.

4002. Does Mr. Butler act as a magistrate?—He does. I will give another case. Mr. Tuck applied for a licence for a house in Mare-street, Hackney, within five doors of another house. An immense amount of influence was brought to bear

Mr. *J. J. Homer.*

20 June 1854.

bear upon the magistrates upon that occasion with reference to that particular application. I think the petition was signed by 400 or 500 persons; there is no difficulty in getting signatures to a petition, if a party is well known in the locality. The persons who sign for the licence are very often the same persons who sign against it. The petitioner referred to was a collector of taxes; occasionally mixing with the magistrates at the Petty Sessions. He was considered a very respectable man, and had nine children. He thought he could support them better if he got a licence for a public-house. He applied for this licence, and it was refused. I have no hesitation in saying that any other tribunal, to which that man could have applied for a licence, if it did not know the local wants of the neighbourhood, would have granted it. If a jury had had to decide that question, they would have said, "Here comes a man recommended by the churchwardens, by ministers, by the overseers, and by other people. We think in this case the necessity for this house has been made out." Yet it was not granted by the magistrates, and very properly so, because it was not wanted.

4003. Lord *D. Stuart.*] On what grounds was it refused?—Because it was originally a private house. There was an old mansion upon the site, of which three shops had been built, and it was only four doors from another public-house. There was no necessity whatever for another public-house. There had been no improvements at all in the neighbourhood; and there were no grounds for granting a licence, as it appeared to the magistrates.

4004. *Chairman.*] This was an instance of a man who was well qualified to have a licence?—As far as his character went, as it appeared to be at that time; they thought there was no necessity for the licence. He subsequently became a defaulter to the parish.

4005. Did the licensed victuallers oppose that application?—The licensed victuallers did oppose that application, and other people as well; I should say that the minister of South Hackney parish and the churchwardens, who knew the requirements of the neighbourhood, opposed it.

4006. Mr. *Brown.*] Might not the magistrates take this view, that a collector of taxes was a very improper person to have a licence?—No, I believe that was not the case.

4007. He might use favouritism if he were so disposed?—His intention was to give up his situation if he got the licence.

4008. *Chairman.*] I suppose it is an undisputed fact that the brewers have a great number of houses?—That is the impression, but it is an erroneous one.

4009. You do not deny that they have a great number of houses?—I believe they have houses, but I also believe that the number is over estimated.

4010. I believe that a brewer's house is seldom refused a licence?—I am not aware that the brewers make applications for licences themselves.

4011. Have you never heard of their collectors attending the licensing bench?—No.

4012. Are not there houses, which are recognised as "free houses," as distinguished from those under the influence of brewers?—There may be some houses of that sort. A person of the name of Bishop, the secretary of the Beersellers' Association, appeared before this Committee, and asserted that an eminent brewer at the east end of the town had been instrumental in procuring a licence for a house which had been applied for before unsuccessfully; Mr. Robert Hanbury denied it. It was asserted that the large brewers have a large number of houses, and that they send to one customer a good and to another a bad article, simply because some are their own houses and the others are free. Mr. Robert Hanbury also denied that; he said they had only one description of beer, and he told the Committee that only one quality of beer was sent out from their brewery.

4013. Have not the brewers arrangements with their agents, that is to say, with publicans holding their houses, so that those persons are little better than their servants; do they not undertake to sell their beer only?—As far as my observation goes of the London trade, it is not so.

4014. Are there not people in the trade supplied by brewers who cannot get a living without diluting or adulterating the beer, at the price at which they advertise to sell it?—My impression is, that there are houses which do not dilute the beer at all; they sell it genuine as they receive it from the brewery, and there are others who have an inferior article, which they draw with the beer, and thus escape the penalties to which they otherwise would be exposed for diluting their beer.

4015. Are they exposed to any penalty for diluting the beer, distinguishing diluting from adulterating?—I think they are.

4016. A publican has stated before this Committee, that they cannot sell beer

at

at 3*d.* a pot at the price which they pay to the brewer?—He is not a good tradesman, or he would not say so.

4017. How does the fact stand?—If the people will have beer at 3*d.* a pot now, it must be manifest that it cannot be a good article; if the publican pays 3*d.*, he never can sell that beer at the same price, and live; they have, therefore, an inferior article, which is bought very much lower, and which they draw with the porter.

4018. Is that inferior article some of the New River water?—It is an article called amber, bought at a low price, and mixed with the porter.

4019. Do you deny the practice of diluting the beer in order to be able to sell it cheap?—I do; by far the greater portion of the houses sell the beer as they receive it from the large brewers, without adulteration at all. If a man sells beer at 3½*d.* or 4*d.* a pot he sells it, I believe, as genuine as he receives it. In some places they are now selling beer at 3*d.* a pot. I do not think they draw the beer as they receive it from Hanbury's or any other of the large houses, but they have from the small brewers an inferior article, which they draw with that beer. Instead of paying 36*s.* a barrel for it they would not pay more than 20*s.*, and that is how they realize a profit; but it is a very inferior article.

4020. As far as you know the trade, the publicans are under no such terms with the brewer who supplies them, as necessitates their resorting to this practice of either adulterating with water or inferior beer?—No.

4021. Mr. *Gregson.*] Some persons sell Hanbury's entire, you think?—No doubt, when they sell the beer full priced.

4022. Are there many parties who do that?—I think since the last rise of price some parties who used to sell threepenny beer before, have gone up a halfpenny, and, therefore, they give the public a good article.

4023. Selling the pure beer?—Yes.

4024. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Is that inferior article, which is called "Amber," sold as amber?—I never had it, I do not know what it is; I never tasted it; it is a very dark beer, and resembles, in its colour, porter as much as possible; at least so I am told.

4025. Mr. *Gregson.*] It is called beer?—The little brewers send it in as beer; what it is made of I do not know.

4026. *Chairman.*] It is the case also with spirits, that some houses sell them lower than they could do profitably if they were genuine?—Some people dilute gin more than others.

4027. Should you say that these things occur more in brewers' houses than others?—I think not.

4028. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do those houses which sell the beer pure get more custom, and are they better conducted houses?—I think so; I think both are well conducted houses. There is a large amount of competition in the beer trade, particularly amongst some gin-shopkeepers and other publicans; the people will have a cheap beer, and they do not care whether it is inferior or not; the publican says, "I must keep two sorts of beer, I must keep fourpenny beer and threepenny beer."

4029. *Chairman.*] You do not think that the Beer Act, and the consequent competition in the trade, has improved the quality of the article; the public do not get cheaper and better beer in consequence?—I do not think they do; although some say so.

4030. Do the beersellers profess to sell beer cheaper than the publicans?—I think not.

4031. Mr. *Gregson.*] I presume, by the aid of the taps which are to be seen in a public-house, any quantity can be sold?—Yes; I was at Sheffield two or three years ago, and I saw 2½*d.* beer marked up; I suppose that was to suit some customers.

4032. *Chairman.*] You cannot inform the Committee what ingredients are put in besides this peculiar stuff, which is called amber?—I do not think there is any inducement to do anything else; some years ago there were a great many Excise informations laid against publicans for adulteration; so I am told; and the publicans said, "As the people will have very cheap beer, and will not give our price for it, we cannot sell the same sort;" and that gave rise to this amber.

4033. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is the amber a universal ingredient?—I imagine so; I am not speaking from my own knowledge, but only of what I have been told; I am speaking from hearsay, that is all.

Mr. *J. J. Homer.*

20 June 1854.

4034. Has the amber been analysed?—I have not the least idea; I know nothing about it; it has been described to me.

4035. *Chairman.*] Has there been any information laid for selling amber?—No. A good tradesman, for instance, who has found that it will suit the palate of the people, their taste, and so on, would have this amber.

4036. Lord *D. Stuart.*] It is not sold openly as amber?—It is mixed with the beer; so much is drawn of one and so much of the other. I believe they have an arrangement to draw both from one tap.

4037. Do you mean that a man who goes into a public-house and asks for one beverage gets another in place of it, while he thinks he is drinking beer?—If a man wants threepenny beer, I do not think he gets it genuine as it is sent from Hanbury's, or other large brewers. I think half a pint of genuine beer is worth a pint of threepenny.

4038. Mr. *Gregson.*] Of course the customer names his price, and the publican gives him quality accordingly?—Yes. When the last rise took place, consequent on the increase of the malt duty the people said, "We will not drink any beer; we will make them reduce the price of beer." The result was, that some of the publicans in very low localities, for instance, in the New Cut, there is one class selling at 3½ *d.* in the upper part of the New Cut, and in the lower part of the New Cut they are selling it at 3 *d.* The beer which is sold at 3½ *d.* I have no doubt would be sold just as it came from the brewery at Hanbury's or Barclay's; whilst at 3 *d.* men could not live if they did not mix amber with it.

4039. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Do not they advertise to sell amber; is there not at some houses "Fine ale and amber" written up?—I have never observed it.

4040. If they sell it as amber, and do not profess it to be anything but what it is, it is no fraud?—None at all.

4041. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is this amber sold at houses belonging to the great brewers?—I dare say it is in some cases.

4042. *Chairman.*] Have they not an interest in keeping up the character of their beer?—Yes.

4043. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do they allow amber to be sold?—A man may have borrowed 2,000*l.*, 3,000*l.*, 1,000*l.*, or 500*l.* to go into the house; if he says, "Well, I cannot sell my beer at 3½*d.*, the people will not buy it, and my trade is going away, I must have threepenny beer;" the brewers say, "We do not like to supply you, because we know you cannot sell it genuine, therefore you will get our house a bad name." He then obtains some article from some other brewers who do not sell good beer; I know one case myself in which Hanbury's did interfere at the east end of the town; they said, "You cannot afford to sell our beer at 3*d.* per pot."

4044. *Chairman.*] Was that man one of their tenants?—He was not a tenant of theirs, but the man was under some pecuniary obligation; they advised him to sell the beer at 3½*d.*; he did first raise his beer from 3*d.* to 3½*d.* when the rise in beer took place, and because his trade fell off he reduced it to 3*d.*; the publicans in the neighbourhood complained of the breach of faith on his part in reducing the price, and as I understand Mr. Hanbury interfered in the matter, and said, "You must sell a good article, and sell the beer as it comes from the brewery, and that will give you a fair living profit and keep up the reputation of our article," and the man raised it up to 3½*d.* in consequence of their representation. He might, however, have said, "I have resolved not again to rise the price of my porter; true it is I owe you money, but 'Reid's' or any other brewer, will lend me enough to pay off your loan."

4045. To pay off Hanbury's?—Yes.

4046. Would Reid's allow him to sell their beer at 3*d.*?—I do not know.

4047. The brewers have an interest in the men selling a large draught of beer, does he sell more when he is adulterating and charging a low price?—I do not suppose he sells more of their beer.

4048. Does not the goodwill of the house sell for more, if he can prove that so much is sold?—No; they calculate the amount of profits.

4049. Do the brewers look after their tenants to see whether they sell their beer diluted or adulterated?—I believe they are exceedingly anxious that they should sell the beer genuine. They were, in reference to the late movement, anxious that all their customers should supply beer at a price at which they could get a living profit, and sell it genuine, namely, 3½*d.* and 4*d.* per pot.

4050. Are you alluding to the tax recently on malt?—Yes.

4051. They

4051. They were anxious that the publicans who took their beer should raise the price, in order that they might sell a genuine article?—Yes.

4052. You say that has been done generally throughout the town?—I should say very generally; there are a few exceptions; if they raise the price to $3\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* they can make a very fair profit indeed.

4053. Is it not more than the tax?—Yes; but the public get a better quality, which they did not before, through this amber being used.

4054. Mr. *Gregson.*] I see beer is still advertised at some of the houses at 3 *d.* Is all the 3 *d.* beer adulterated with this amber?—I should not like to go so far as to say that.

4055. Is that your impression?—Yes; because it is charged 36 *s.* a barrel; a man cannot sell it for the same price, and live, and pay his expenses.

4056. *Chairman.*] Have you any suggestion to make to the Committee of any amendments in the law?—I would say, with reference to the licensing system, that I think the suspension of licences operates as a check against the transgression of the law on the part of licensed victuallers.

4057. What do you call a suspension of licences. I understand the houses are never closed, but they go on precisely the same?—Perhaps the proper term would be adjournment of the licence; it is considered a suspension of the licence; that is the phrase we know it by. A friend of mine, living at Dalston, who is a very respectable man and realised a good deal of money in business, by the name of Griggs, who kept the Tyssen Arms, had his licence suspended by the licensing magistrates. It appears that an information was laid against him before a stipendiary magistrate, for opening his house two minutes before one o'clock on Sunday. That information was either dismissed on the payment of costs, or with the infliction of 5 *s.*, or some trivial fine. I know when he found that the bench of magistrates suspended his licence, it had just this effect, he considered himself a humiliated, degraded man, and he left his house and went out of business immediately.

4058. The magistrates did not refuse the licence?—No; they gave it upon the adjournment day, but still it operated so powerfully upon the man, inasmuch as he had kept his house for 30 years, and never had an isolated complaint made against him. A revision of the licences by the magistrates, and a suspension or adjourned consideration of them, has a good tendency; it prevents transgressions of the law in this way; it is a well known fact in my neighbourhood, if a man has his licence suspended it is said, "Mr. so-and-so has had his licence suspended for serving on Sunday morning, or during prohibited hours." The people being very religious in Hackney, say, We will take our custom from this man, and give it to a man who does not disobey the law. I know that servants have been directed to go to some beershop, or a better regulated house. The man has to get up a petition, and employ counsel to go on the adjournment day to make out his case, and say he is extremely sorry, and that the offence shall not occur again.

4059. In short, he is put to great inconvenience?—Yes, and expense. With regard to preventing the violation of the law from Saturday night to Sunday at one o'clock in the afternoon, I take the same view that Mr. Stinton does. I think you should punish the customer as well as the publican. I do not know a more effectual method of preventing infractions of the law on Sunday than that would be. I will give a case in illustration of this point. Some years ago, a man of the name of Lane had a sort of theatre in Shoreditch, which he carried on without any interference on the part of the police for a considerable time; however, it seemed there was a clause in some Police Act by which the people there present could be taken by the police before a magistrate; the effect of that was, that in less than a fortnight the place was closed.

4060. I believe the same system is recognised in other cases, with respect to prize-fights and gaming-houses?—Exactly.

4061. How would you secure their being informed against, with the object of preventing Sunday trading?—I do not know; the police ought to be a little more strict in reference to these houses, and see that they do not evade the law.

4062. You heard what Mr. Stinton said, that the policeman has almost an inducement not to do so, seeing that he has to attend on Monday at the magistrates' court, when he ought to be in bed?—The superintendent of police might appoint a certain number of men to look after these houses on Sunday morning.

Mr. *J. J. Homer.*

20 June 1854.

4063. Do you believe that there is an extensive violation of the law with respect to Sunday trading?—I am afraid there is in some neighbourhoods; a licensed victualler told me that he could not live but for the Sunday morning trading.

4064. Was that within a few years?—Yes; there may be sympathy expressed for the man and his family, but for society it is better that the licence should be taken away. About eight or nine years ago the magistrates were determined to put down Sunday trading in the Tower Hamlets division, and they took away six or seven licences only for serving on the Sunday; there had been only one conviction against them before the magistrates: the police reported them for serving during the prohibited hours on Sunday morning; they said, "We will take the licences away;" they were taken away, and then there was a great feeling got up on the part of the people. "Poor things!" they said, "here is a man that has got a large family; it is destruction to him and ruin," and all that sort of thing. The houses were shut up; on the men going to the quarter sessions the magistrates did not support their convictions except in one case, which was a very bad case; therefore all the licences were given by the quarter sessions, upon appeal, except that one.

4065. You would have a more rigorous administration of the law?—Yes; all the respectable licensed victuallers in London, and I dare say it is so in the country, are exceedingly anxious that some stringent regulations should be made to prevent Sunday morning trading; I believe it is carried on to a considerable extent, and is a great cause of drunkenness. If a man can get beer at a beershop or public-house between the interdicted hours, he does do so, and the moment the public-houses are opened according to law he enters tipsy; whereas, if he could not get the drink, he would be clean shaved, and sitting comfortably with his family at dinner.

4066. Mr. *Gregson.*] By law, they cannot get it?—No, but the law is evaded.

4067. *Chairman.*] Is there anything else which you wish to state?—One thing I would suggest as to the power of the police to enter public-houses in cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. The wife of a friend of mine, in Shoe-lane, was assaulted by a drunken fellow, because she refused to serve him with anything to drink; he struck her over the back part of her head, and took hold of her hair; there was no one at hand to render her assistance.

4068. If she had called in the police she could have given that person in charge for assault?—He is not allowed to enter unless he hears a cry of murder.

4069. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is it not the case that landlords are disposed to call for the police instead of making every exertion to clear their houses themselves?—Drunken men are very refractory. A man will come in and say, "I will have something to drink; I have not had too much;" although it is manifest that he has. "I will not move from this place;" and all the quiet and respectable customers are annoyed by two or three drunken fellows who come from some other house, and who will be served before they will go out. In extreme instances it is impossible to persuade the man to go home without it. He says, "I will not leave unless I have some drink," and yet we cannot have the assistance of the police to prevent this annoyance.

4070. *Chairman.*] In your opinion, there ought to be somebody specially appointed to watch the houses of licensed victuallers, and they should have the power to require their assistance in cases of persons refusing to leave those houses?—Not specially appointed. My observation was intended only to apply to Sunday morning trading. I think the men ought to be appointed in plain clothes for that purpose.

4071. You do not mean to say that there are not plenty of infringements of the law besides Sunday trading?—I dare say there are.

4072. Is there not gambling, harbouring bad characters, and all that sort of thing?—I dare say there are houses of that description.

4073. But the police have no business to go in?—No, not without special orders.

4074. It is not their duty to enter the house?—No.

4075. You are the proprietor of a paper, are you not?—Part proprietor, and have occasionally contributed to the press in complaints of the kind I have mentioned; that is all.

4076. You

4076. You have not put forward your views upon this subject?—No; not at all.

The Rev. *Francis Thornburgh*, called in; and Examined.

4077. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a Clergyman of the Church of England?—Yes.

4078. Do you hold preferment?—Yes; the temporary church of St. Thomas Kennington.

4079. You have been lately considering the subject of closing public-houses on Sunday?—I have.

4080. What is your opinion upon that subject?—Unfavourable, under certain circumstances.

4081. You think public-houses should be open on Sunday?—For a certain time, and for a certain purpose.

4082. Are you satisfied with the law as it is?—I am not.

4083. What change would you make?—The change I would make would be this, that the houses should be open on Sunday for a certain time after morning and after evening service.

4084. That is the case now, is it not?—They are open the entire day, after one o'clock.

4085. Mr. *Gregson.*] At what hour does Divine service commence?—The morning service commences at 11, and is over, we will say, at one; I should propose to allow from a quarter past one an hour, and again after the evening service, we will say from a quarter past eight, another hour.

4086. *Chairman.*] Why would you open them again at eight?—For the purpose of supplying to purchasers what they may require.

4087. You would close them at two, and open them a little after eight?—I would open them first after morning service for one hour, from one to two, and afterwards, from eight to nine in the evening, or thereabouts.

4088. Are those the only hours you would propose to keep them open?—Those are the only hours; I think they would be sufficient.

4089. So that they would be open two hours during the day?—Yes.

4090. I understood you to be opposed to closing public-houses on Sunday more than they are now, but from what you have said now you would close them further?—I would close them further. I am opposed to the closing them throughout the whole day.

4091. You have published a letter upon the subject?—I have.

4092. Are those the limits you have stated in that letter?—In that letter I have said 30 minutes; perhaps if I were to write it again I should say 60 minutes; I think it would conduce more to order and decency; there might be a crowd if the houses were only open 30 minutes, as so many would require to be supplied.

4093. What objection have you to public-houses being open from one to three; what is the evil arising from that?—I think the drunkenness in public-houses on Sunday is a great public evil.

4094. They are now open from one to three, or are supposed to be; I presume people do not get drunk from one to three; do you know the contrary?—I do not know.

4095. Is there any mischief within your experience from their being open from one to three?—I think there is a necessary evil; if you allow people to congregate at any hour on Sunday in public-houses when they have nothing to do, they will be likely to get drunk; I would not allow them to drink in the public-houses at all; I would have them open for one specific object, to furnish families or individuals with whatever drink they may require to be taken away.

4096. Mr. *Gregson.*] To be drunk off the premises?—Yes.

4097. *Chairman.*] Have you been long in the Kennington district?—Yes, some years.

4098. Are you pretty well acquainted with the habits of the people?—I am not particularly acquainted with the habits of those people, but of society at large. I am not resident.

4099. You have heard the evidence which has been given by the two preceding witnesses?—Yes.

4100. Do you differ with them or agree with them as to the inconvenience it would

Rev. *F. Thornburgh.*

20 June 1854.

would occasion to a number of people who take recreation in the afternoon on Sunday, and who always like to take their drink at that time, to have the houses closed?—I am aware that, legislate as you may, inconvenience will arise to a very considerable extent; in this case your choice lies between two evils, and not between a positive good and an evil; I believe your choice must be which of the two evils we can guard against, as being the greater of the two.

4101. Do you know whether the people would complain of it; do you think they would consider it an injustice?—Certainly; if you close the public-houses entirely, if you will not allow a man to get beer or porter for his dinner or supper, you deprive him of what habit, at least, has made an, almost, necessary of life.

4102. At present the public-houses are open after 5 o'clock for the rest of the day on Sunday; I want to know whether you think it would be a great inconvenience to close them after 5 o'clock; would the poor people consider it a great injustice, as far as you know?—I have no doubt they would consider any change unjust.

4103. Are you of the same opinion with several other witnesses, that the poor people would not greatly object to it?—I am not. I think they would very much object.

4104. Have you met with any people who know the evil of drinking, but who cannot resist the temptation?—A knowledge of human nature is sufficient to lead us to form an opinion. There are many such.

4105. Do you think it would be practicable to close the public-houses at all, as you have proposed; there are many things which might be advantageous, perhaps, which are not practicable to be done?—It is more practicable than the measure which is contemplated by the total abolitionists; I think they excite the opposition of the poorer people by the over severity of their measure and secure, in the end, as the result, its virtual defeat.

4106. Do you think you have discovered the just medium, which would prevent the evasion of the law?—No, I do not pretend to any such discovery. The law will be evaded, more or less, legislate as you may.

4107. Do you think people would drink at their private houses if your recommendation were adopted?—Certainly; I do not hope to succeed to the full extent which I could wish. They will drink, in many instances, we must expect, even to excess.

4108. Where is the good of your recommendation, if you expect it to be evaded?—The scenes which are continually being enacted on Sunday mornings in public-houses, and which have been described in the evidence given by the last gentleman, would be prevented.

4109. They result from drunkenness?—Yes.

4110. If drunkenness took place in any other place, would not the same results follow?—Masses meeting together cause a greater amount of drunkenness than if they were divided in small parties in their own homes; my plan would produce more domestic comfort; the man would have his porter or his beer with his family, and not by himself. By this means some restraint would exist for the drunkard, whereas now there exists none. He would have also, perhaps, spirits. We cannot prevent it.

4111. Is yours a very populous district?—It is.

4112. Are there any manufactories in it?—None.

4113. Are there not a great number of working people?—Yes.

4114. Have you witnessed many of the evils of drunkenness?—I see on Sunday evenings quite sufficient to convince me of what ought to be done. I pass one public-house in particular; it is crowded by people who have evidently had too much to drink.

4115. Would it not be much more crowded if it were open for that one hour, as you propose?—When I propose its being open, I should have it open only for the sale of drink not to be consumed on the premises; I should not allow drink to be consumed on the premises at all on Sunday.

4116. Mr. *Brown.*] Are the gin-palaces open at all on Sunday evening?—Yes; the house to which I have referred is of that description.

4117. Lord *D. Stuart.*] They are open until a late hour on Sunday, are they not?—Yes.

4118. Till any hour after 12 o'clock?—I believe so.

4119. Mr. *Gregson.*]

Rev. *F. Thornburgh.*

20 June 1854.

4119. Mr. *Gregson.*] Have you observed many persons intoxicated in your neighbourhood on Sunday?—Many.

4120. Lord *D. Stuart.*] I believe there are places in which there is Divine service in the afternoon, and where the public-houses are open from one o'clock?—Yes, many places.

4121. *Chairman.*] Does the present law permit the houses to be open where there is Divine service performed?—I really do not know.

4122. Are not the houses specified in the Act?—I do not know.

4123. Sir *G. Goodman.*] Are you aware that in the country the hour of beginning public service in the church is half-past ten?—Yes.

4124. Of course you are confining your observations to London?—Yes.

4125. Mr. *Gregson.*] At what hour is Divine service in the evening?—Half-past six.

4126. Is your church pretty well attended?—In winter it is better attended at night than in the summer; it is fairly attended.

4127. Do you think the people prefer the gin-palace to the church?—I do not say so.

Mr. *William Speechly*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *W. Speechly.*

4128. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Licensed Victualler?—Yes.

4129. In London?—In the borough of Southwark.

4130. How long have you been so?—I have been there 11 years.

4131. What o'clock does your house open on Sunday afternoon?—It is open at one o'clock, and I do not shut up again till five; sometimes not so early as that; I keep open all the afternoon; we have no afternoon service; an evening service, and a morning service.

4132. What o'clock does evening service begin?—About six.

4133. Do you close from five for the rest of the evening?—I close till after eight, but have not done so of late.

4134. You are not obliged to do that by law?—We do it from custom as much as anything; there is Blackman-street; there are two parishes; one side of the street is in St. George's and the other in St. Mary Newington.

4135. Mr. *Gregson.*] You open at eight, and keep open all the remainder of the night?—Yes.

4136. *Chairman.*] Do your customers consider it inconvenient, your house being closed from five to eight o'clock?—I do not think they do.

4137. Do all the publicans in your neighbourhood also close at that hour?—No; other houses are open.

4138. What have you seen with respect to drinking and drunkenness on Sunday evening?—I find a very different class come in at one, when we open, to what we find after five or after eight; we find the class of people which come in as soon as we open a dissipated, low class of people, and they stay and drink their beer very imprudently, and use very bad language.

4139. Between one and five o'clock?—Yes. In the evening I find, when we are open, a very different class of people come indeed; that class which probably have their dinner at home with their families generally. Others have been out by the railroads and steamboats, and they spend money freely; I never find them drunk and dissipated, like the parties that come in at one o'clock.

4140. How do you account for that; is it not generally for dinner-beer they come in at one o'clock?—I think they come in and drink instead of going to their dinner.

4141. They are a low class of people?—Yes. I am only speaking of my own house. I should be very glad to get rid of them. I have no objection to close my house at all from one to five. I consider the one o'clock closing has done a good deal of good; it would do more if they were closed till five; the people would be obliged to provide their families with dinner, and be obliged to stop at home and partake of it, if the public-houses were not open at all till five. I think the prudent people would provide for themselves; and the imprudent, if they did not, so much the better for them.

4142. You think they would provide beer on the Saturday?—Yes.

4143. Is there any inconvenience at all in providing beer on Saturday?—None; I think it is quite as good out of a bottle as out of the butts.

4144. Is there anybody who closes his house near you?—One or two close entirely.

Mr. *W. Speechly.*

20 June 1854.

4145. Do you know whether the customers of those houses go to another house on Sunday, or get beer from that house on Saturday?—That I cannot answer.

4146. Do you know any people who take beer in a bottle on Saturday night?—Some of my own customers do so, from motives of principle of their own.

4147. Have you ever heard them complain that it spoiled the beer?—No, not at all; I consider it is quite as good in a stone bottle, corked down, as from the butts; in proof of which statement, I have made an experiment, by keeping my brewer's porter in a stone bottle, containing two quarts, for a considerable time, and on tapping it, found the quality equally good as when taken from the butt.

4148. You have mentioned your own house, which is frequented by a peculiarly low class of people; you admit that it is the practice with some people to come and fetch beer, and take it home at one o'clock?—I have many fetch it, and take it home on Sunday; I am speaking of the class of people that come in, and stay and drink in the afternoon, and kick up a noise and confusion in the evening; they get drunk in the afternoon, and are badly-conducted people.

4149. How are the people who come back from excursions?—I always find them a sober and well-conducted class of people.

4150. Are they ever drunk?—No; although they may have no better situation, they are perhaps better dressed than those who come in at one o'clock.

4151. How late do they stay?—Some half-an-hour, and some not five minutes; some people come in with children in their arms, take their refreshment, and go away.

4152. Do not those people who come at one o'clock and get a little drunk come again in the evening?—There are exceptions; we are sorry to see them.

4153. What becomes of the customers who get drunk in the afternoon; do not they come again?—Perhaps they go home and go to bed; I find none of that class of people come at night to my house.

4154. You would suggest, that the law should be so far changed, that no house should be opened after Saturday night till Sunday afternoon?—I should like to close on Saturday, and not open till five on the Sunday evening, and then keep open till 12 o'clock.

4155. Mr. *Gregson.*] Would not that interfere with Divine service?—It would interfere with the evening service.

4156. *Chairman.*] They might attend Divine service before then?—Yes.

4157. Did you ever keep a public-house in the country?—No.

4158. You are only speaking of London?—Yes.

4159. You do not know how such a change of the law would work in the country?—No.

4160. Can you tell us anything of the views of other publicans upon this matter; are there many who agree with you, and would not be averse to closing their houses till five on Sunday?—There are many.

4161. For the same reason, that they have a low class of customers in the middle of the day?—I know nothing of other people's business; that is my case. I seldom go to any house except my own.

4162. Mr. *Gregson.*] If your recommendation were adopted, not to open till five o'clock, would it not be sufficient if you kept your house open till eight or nine for two or three hours?—I have no objection to close; but I do not see why a respectable tradesman, after dining with his family, being at Divine service, should be forced out of a house at nine o'clock on Sunday, when perhaps his habit is not to go till 10 or 11 o'clock. I think it would be a great disadvantage to the public at large; but there are many tradespeople, and many tradespeople's assistants, who are not expected to come home before 10 o'clock in large establishments.

4163. So far as your own interest is concerned, and the comfort of your establishment, you would have no objection to close at nine o'clock on Sunday evening?—I think it would not be so convenient to the public.

4164. *Chairman.*] Have you any other suggestion to make to the Committee?—No.

503

Veneris, 23° *die Junii*, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. C. P. Villiers.	Mr. Brown.
Lord Dudley Stuart.	Mr. Ker Seymer.
Mr. Barrow.	Mr. Gregson.
Sir John Pakington.	

THE RIGHT HON. C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *Archibald K. M'Callum*, A.M., called in; and Examined.

Rev. *A. K. M'Callum*, A.M.

23 June 1854.

4165. *Chairman.*] DO you hold any situation in Glasgow?—I am the Governor of the Boys' House of Refuge, which is an institution for the reformation of juvenile delinquents.

4166. How long has it been established?—Fifteen years.

4167. You are resident always in Glasgow?—I am. I have been in Glasgow for the last 24 or 25 years. I have been during nine years connected with the Glasgow City Mission, and consequently have a large acquaintance with the state of the poor, and the condition of the working classes in general.

4168. There has been recently a change in the law affecting public-houses; they are now closed the whole of Sunday?—Yes.

4169. With what result has that been attended as regards the lower classes?—In order to ascertain the working of the system, I made it a point to see the missionaries who are labouring in different parts of the City; and, without exception, their testimony is of the strongest kind in regard to the admirable working of the law. One of them in particular stated that formerly, in one part of the City where his district is, he could not labour on the Sabbath-day, owing to the noise and rioting, and other evils prevailing, in consequence of drinking; but now he visits it just as he does on weekdays.

4170. Mr. *Barrow.*] Will you give the date of the commencement of this alteration?—On the 15th of May last.

4171. *Chairman.*] How many Sundays has it been in operation?—I think five Sundays. This is a statement from Captain Smart, the Superintendent of Police at Glasgow, respecting the working of the system under him.

4172. Do you know that it is accurate?—Yes.

4173. Has it been sent to you?—Yes.

4174. Is it a copy of any official return which has been made?—No; it is just a statement given by him at my request, as to the working of the Act. He says, "The new Public-house Act came into general operation on Whit Sunday last, and in Glasgow has as yet worked well. We have now almost no cases of drunkenness from an early hour on Sabbath mornings till midday on Mondays. But this state of things, however satisfactory, may not last, as the whole county of Renfrew, and the greater part of the county of Lanark, is without police, and consequently the Bill is not so well wrought. The shutting all the public-houses on Sundays, and on week nights so early as 11 o'clock, will induce a number of parties to sell without licence. I have had several convictions for this offence, but the provisions of the Act are so strong, I think I will be able, if not to stop it altogether, to keep it in very small bounds. I will not attempt to give any comparison of the working of the old and new Acts, as I would require a week to do it justice." I have here a statement from Edinburgh as to the working of the system there;

Rev. *A. K. M'Callum*, A. M.

this is from the "Daily Mail," the only once a day paper in Scotland, published in Glasgow and Edinburgh on the same day.

23 June 1854.

[*The same was read, as follows:*]

A RETURN by the superintendent of police gave the following results of the operation of the law under the former and the present system, with reference to cases of drunkenness. The Return embraced the period from 15th May till 1st June, and from midnight to midnight:—

	MALE.	FEMALE.
In 1853—Persons drunk, and under protection	157	136
Drunk, and charged	75	96
TOTAL	232	232
In 1854—Drunk, and under protection	118	83
Drunk, and charged	58	60
TOTAL	176	143
In 1853—Drunk, and under protection, on the two Sundays in the Return	21	6
Drunk, and charged	9	6
TOTAL	30	12
In 1854—Drunk, and under protection	4	1
Drunk, and charged	1	5
TOTAL	5	6

4175. The law does not affect the other days of the week?—Yes. As it provides for the closing of public-houses at 11 o'clock P. M., and prohibits their opening before seven o'clock A. M., weekday drunkenness is already materially diminished. Baillie Harvey, one of our magistrates, said on Monday in our police court, that in all the four courts he had presided over, there was only one case of drunkenness on the Sabbath; that one got drunk in Rutherglen, a neighbouring town, in which the law is not so thoroughly in operation as in our city. The four police courts referred to are situated respectively in the densely populated suburbs of Calton, Gorbals, Anderston, and Cowcaddens; with all which I am myself well acquainted. There is a statement in another paper which I have here in regard to Arbroath, "From Saturday night last up to the present time" (I presume it is Monday he referred to), "not one individual has been taken to the police-office for drunkenness;)" and the writer puts the question, "When has the like of that ever been observed before?" In reference to Dundee the same paper says, "From half-past four on Sunday morning till half-past four on Monday afternoon, not a single person was taken into custody by the police. That was not formerly the case; things used to be in a very sad state.

4176. Is there any proof you are prepared with showing the effect of the law in comparison with what prevailed before?—I mentioned in reference to a city missionary, finding the aspect of the people very materially altered, and their moral character already beginning to be somewhat influenced, in consequence of their not being addicted to drunkenness and rioting as formerly.

4177. Is that your own observation?—Theirs.

4178. Are you just come from Glasgow?—Directly; I may state that I sent a number of queries to about 40 of the city missionaries, and I have received these answers from them, which if the Committee will allow me, I will read; they do not bear any reference to this law directly; they bear upon the system of drinking in general.

4179. Do

4179. Do they generally correspond?—They mostly correspond; there is scarcely any difference.

4180. Will you state the general result of those answers, to fortify your opinion by the opinions of other missionaries?—The questions are, first, "Is there any connexion, in your apprehension, between the number of spirit-shops or public-houses in Glasgow, and the amount of drunkenness prevailing? If so, state the ground upon which that conviction has been founded, giving any fact that may have come under your own observation." About 40 missionaries, most of whom have received an University education, and are, consequently, intelligent and competent witnesses, have given their evidence that there is a most decided connexion; wherever new shops are opened, an immediate increase of drunkenness takes place, and that if the drinking-shops were lessened or put an end to altogether, the evil would be diminished decidedly, if not altogether removed. Second, "Assuming that you believe the prevalence of intemperance to be materially caused by the facilities afforded for procuring drink, how would you propose to remedy this evil?" Third, "State what you consider the principal cause or causes of the abounding intemperance, supplying any facts that may corroborate your opinion." Fourth, "Are you satisfied with the licensing system as at present conducted; if not, what alteration or amendment would you propose in it?" Fifth, "It has been proposed as an improvement to throw the spirit trade open, like the tea and sugar trades, &c., leaving it to rectify itself by the ordinary laws of demand and supply; are you prepared to recommend that as a remedy?" Sixth, "It has likewise been proposed that, as a large amount of capital is invested in the spirit trade, and as Governments derive an important item of revenue from it, the most advisable course is to grant no more new licences, to renew none which expire, to close on the Sabbath, and to keep proper hours for opening and closing; in your opinion, would this be a sufficient remedy?" Seventh, "It has been proposed by a third class that, as the most extensive experience both in this country and in America has demonstrated the fact that every system of legislation to regulate the spirit trade has failed in removing intemperance, therefore, the only effectual means for arresting this crying evil is to adopt the Maine Law, prohibiting entirely the traffic in intoxicating liquors under a penalty. Your experience in the mission will enable you to judge the propriety of such a measure; will you state your opinion?" Eighth, "What proportion of the crime, pauperism, and wretchedness prevailing amongst the lower classes, do you attribute to intemperance?" Ninth, "Do you find intemperance an obstacle to the success of your evangelistic labours amongst the working classes?" Tenth, "Do you approve of licences for selling spirits, &c., being given to music and dancing saloons?" Eleventh, "What influence on the morality of the rising generation do you consider that the shows, minor theatres, and low places of amusement in this city exert?" Twelfth, "Does it accord with your knowledge that the 'wee-pawns' are a fruitful source of crime, by affording facilities for thefts, drunkenness, &c.; if so, state any instances that have come under your observations."

4181. Do you find the answers to those queries correspond with each other?—Yes. With one exception, they all wished the Maine Law to come into operation, or some law entirely prohibiting the selling of ardent spirits, as the only effectual means of extirpaitng the vice of intemperance.

4182. What is the answer to the question you read with respect to throwing the trade open like other trades?—They think it would be very alarming; there is no difference of opinion in that respect. We have it substantially in Glasgow; already till within a recent period, when the magistrates found it necessary to check somewhat this evil, any persons might get licences if prepared to pay for them, and get two individuals to sign their applications; and I think that is one of the greatest evils we have in Scotland.

4183. Is not a discretion exercised by the sheriff in granting the licence?—It is the magistrates that grant the licence. Formerly any person might get a licence if he conformed to the rules, but now greater caution is exercised. We have in some streets, the High-street for example, four spirit-shops adjoining, and in the same street we have six, with one baker's shop between them. We have in other streets a somewhat similar state of things; thus, in Gallowgate-street, within a comparatively small space, there are 79 spirit-shops; Saltmarket, 56, and Broomielaw, 65; consequently we have a great deal of drunkenness, arising from the facilities that are afforded. Another missionary gives an instance of the case of a public work in the vicinity, where the people were supplied regularly with drink. The master

Rev. [*A. K. M'Callum*, A. M.

23 June 1854.

of the public work saw the evil was very great; he caused it to be removed entirely; the effect was most beneficial upon the people in the public work.

4184. The people in your city cannot resist temptation when it is offered to them?—No. We think such is the moral state of many of the people that if we present a great temptation in their way, they will fall under it. We think the only remedy is to remove this temptation, as far as we possibly can, from them.

4185. Drinking more than is necessary is an infirmity that pervades all classes in Scotland?—Yes, I fear it is too true, of many.

4186. I suppose a better effect would be produced upon the lower classes, if they had a better example?—I think most of the higher classes do not give a bad example.

4187. It is not thought very disgraceful for people to be worse for drink in Scotland?—I think it is; many of the lower classes do not think so.

4188. Among the bettermost class it is not thought a great offence to be drunk?—I think it is more than it used to be.

4189. Do you say it is on the increase in Scotland?—I think the efforts of the total abstinence societies and others have very materially reduced the evil of drinking; still we think, if we had more power by legal enactment, a great deal of good would be done. I am of opinion that a Maine Law alone will effectually remove drunkenness.

4190. Will you put in one of the answers of which you have stated the general results in your evidence?

[*The second Answer was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

ANSWERS to QUERIES addressed to the Agents of the *Glasgow* City Mission, City Temperance Mission, and others, May 1854.

1st Query. Is there any connexion, in your apprehension, between the number of spirit shops or public-houses in Glasgow, and the amount of drunkenness prevailing? If so, state the ground upon which that conviction has been formed, giving any facts that may have come under your own observation.

Mr. *P. Davidson.*—1st. The grounds on which I give an answer to this query, are: (1.) The principle that a spirit-shop, like a bookshop, creates new customers for itself. He who opens a spirit-shop has friends and relatives who are inclined to look more favourably on the drinking practices, are induced to drink more frequently, and thus a new circle of drinkers are gradually formed. (2.) The more spirit-shops, the more temptations to those who can scarcely resist the tendency to enter them; one man in my district confesses that, after the most resolute efforts not to enter the spirit-shop, the desire to have drink wakened by passing the door was such, that all his resolutions were vain and useless. This confession was made in the presence of his wife and family, with the tears flowing down his cheeks; he says, if public-houses remain, he cannot be saved. I believe there are 30 in my district, in the same position, though they do not believe it; never having, like this man, made an honest effort to abandon drinking.

Mr. *J. G. Paton.*—1st. It is evident that there is a close connexion between the number of public-houses and the amount of drunkenness that exists amongst us, for those localities which are most noted for degradation and immorality are the very places where glittering spirit-shops are most numerous; and who has not observed that just in proportion as these increase in any part of our city, so poverty, vice, and crime increase around that part, and *vice versâ?* For example, I have one court in my district which was inhabited by between 50 and 60 families about two years ago, when it had a flourishing spirit-shop at its entrance. Then the proprietor of this square of buildings and his wife occupied a small room as their dwelling house, and as they would have drunk with the poorest of their tenants, they were almost constantly in a state of intoxication, until she died through its influence. Fever, trouble, and death were constantly to be found in it; and poverty, crime, and vice were universal, until, from a sense of duty, the spirit merchant converted the business into that of a provision store, and in less than 18 months the inhabitants have undergone a complete moral reformation. Before this change, I only knew of one church-going person in the court, and she was not even a church member; now, almost every family are church-going, and many of the parents are church members. Formerly, I trembled to visit this court on account of personal insults, which I seldom escaped; now, I am received cordially, and treated with the utmost respect in every house, and sometimes about 30 persons from this court attend our prayer-meetings, the proprietor setting the example. Formerly, it was famed for its drunkenness, filth, and ignorance, and now the families vie with each other in keeping their doors and houses clean, and many of them have joined our library, and also our total abstinence society. Now, through honest industry, every family is able to pay their own house-rent, and many of the drunken families who were formerly kept as lodgers are now dismissed, so that the number of families is now reduced to about 30. Until the spirit-shop was removed, all my efforts to do good among them were utterly in vain;

507

Rev. *A. K. M'Callum*, A.M.

23 June 1854.

vain; and since the removal, they have been crowned with the most cheering success. Other two of the spirit merchants in my district were induced from a sense of duty to give up the trade; but the proprietors, being unable to sympathise with their motives and principles, retained the licence for their houses, which only changed hands. However, the new merchants brought a new circle of friends and acquaintances around them, and retained many of the old customers, so that these localities are undergoing a remarkable change for the worse. Two additional "wee-pawns" have been opened close by to accommodate their customers; and some of their friends, who formerly received me kindly, and attended our meetings regularly, now close their doors in my face, and order me not to call at their houses again. Now, the cause of this change is evident, and can be ascribed to nothing else. Another lane, now inhabited by the most profligate and vicious characters in my district, has a spirit-shop on each side of the entrance to it, and two on the opposite side of the street, all of which seem to be flourishing and making money of the poor wretched inhabitants of the immediate locality. I know several of the poor families who are chiefly supported by charity or plunder, and yet they are the best customers the spirit merchants have, for they are almost constantly in a state of intoxication; in fact, this seems necessary to qualify them for their other work. One of those spirit-shops has provisions combined with the spirits, and other two of them have milk to sell, which, from experience, I have found to be the most dangerous and destructive kinds of spirit-shops, and calculated to make more female drunkards than any other influence I know of. Those combinations form an excuse for any one to enter such houses; and other decent women, and especially young females, are entrapped unawares, and gain their first appetite for intoxicating drink by happening to meet their neighbours, friends, and fellow-servants drinking at such counters, when, as they think, out of respect and kindness, they are treated and pressed to taste or drink, and consequently must, by-and-by, treat their falsely-named friends in return. This, I believe, to be a most prolific cause of drinking among unsuspected and unsuspecting females, who, by-and-by, become the pests of our society.

Mr. *John Sutherland.*—1st. The foregoing queries I have answered in the order of their number. I doubt not that there is a decided and unavoidable connexion between the great number of spirit-shops and the amount of drunkenness prevailing in Glasgow. For in a locality in the neighbourhood of my dwelling, having five licensed spirit-shops within the space of 60 yards, I have had too frequent and abundant opportunities of seeing people sober entering one of these, then going from one to another; until, at last, either they could not stand, or they fought to bloodshed, by drunkenness, and that very often late on Saturday night or Sabbath morning, much to the annoyance and disgust of peaceful neighbours. Other localities, as thickly, or more thickly, planted than these, produce results equally disastrous and abhorrent.

Mr. *MacIntyre.*—1st. The following are facts: J. B., A. C., P. M., D. C., all of them opened spirit-shops, and, independently of the evil done to others, all these men, their wives, their bar-maids and waiters, became victims. For instance, A. C. married a country girl; she became a dreadful drunkard; she had her three sisters as servants in succession, all of whom became victims of intemperance. Some of these girls became prostitutes, as I heard from good authority. Almost all who engage in the traffic, if they continue any lengthened time in it, become drunkards themselves. This will add to the amount of drunkenness even although I could not prove that they make new drunkards at all, or confirmed old drunkards in their evil habits.

4191. Have you heard any expression of discontent among the lower class, as to the Sunday-closing law you have now in operation?—On the contrary, in several districts, not only the lower classes, but even the drunkards themselves, hail it as an inestimable blessing. On the evidence I have given with respect to about 50 drunkards in the district of one of our city missionaries, the question was put directly to them, whether they would wish or not the Maine law to come into operation; they say that they would wish it to come into operation. Not only that, but some of those people that sell ardent spirits are now thankfully receiving it as a boon.

4192. There has not been any meeting or paper written which represents peculiarly their opinion, and expressing discontent or dissatisfaction with then Act?—There was a meeting in Dundee of the spirit-sellers to the number of 150 on Tuesday night, and while they were anxious to obtain a considerable modification of the law regulating the sale of spirits, they were unanimous in their condemnation of the Sabbath traffic. I know the most respectable of the Glasgow publicans are decidedly favourable to doing away with Sabbath drinking; among the spirit-sellers I never heard anything to the contrary stated; I have heard it repeatedly stated that they are favourable, and many of them said so to myself.

4193. No paper in Glasgow has objected to the law?—No newspapers that I am aware of; they all speak very strongly in its favour; I have a paper in my hand, "The Scottish Guardian," in which there is a very able article upon the subject.

4194. Has any newspaper opposed the law?—I am not aware; I have not had my attention turned to any.

4195. You do not know that there is an extensive evasion of the law by the

Rev. *A. K. M'Callum*, A.M.

23 June 1854.

people having liquors in their private houses?—I made particular inquiry, and I found that the people are not in the habit of purchasing drink on Saturday and taking it home. This was one of the objections that arose to the law being passed and coming into operation; some were afraid that they would have done so; but I am credibly informed by those who have an acquaintance with the working people, that they do not purchase it on Saturday as a whole; there may be individuals, but they do not purchase it to drink on the Sabbath day. There are some evasions of the law, and there are several houses where spirits are sold illegally; yet I think that difficulty may be soon got over.

4196. The law is confined to the sale, not to drinking the liquor?—Yes.

4197. Do not the people drink more spirits than beer in Scotland?—Yes.

4198. The common people do not drink beer at all, do they?—Very little; I think the great evil we have in Scotland is the number of places for public sale of ardent spirits; consequently, they go in and get drink, and it soon intoxicates them.

4199. They do have bottles of spirits at home, do they not?—They may take them home, but we think they do not do it in general in order to become intoxicated.

4200. It does not spoil spirits to be in bottle, I believe?—No, it does not.

4201. Mr. *Barrow.*] At this meeting at Dundee, did the spirit-dealers state what modification they wished for in the Act?—I did not see in the paper what the meeting wished.

4202. Only that they wished for a modification in the law, but they have not stated what that modification was?—I am not aware; they were unanimous in condemnation of the Sabbath traffic.

4203. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Do I understand you to say that the law came into operation on Whit Sunday?—Yes; I think it has been five Sabbaths in operation.

4204. I suppose it came into operation in all Scotland upon the same day?—Yes.

4205. *Chairman.*] It was the annual licensing day, was it not, that was fixed upon in the Bill for its coming into operation, although the Act passed last year?—Yes.

4206. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Is the annual licensing day the same in every part of Scotland?—No; I believe they have different days.

4207. Has it not been in operation longer in some parts of Scotland?—I could not answer that question.

4208. *Chairman.*] You did not give any comparison of its effects on the different Sundays since it has been in operation. Do you know whether there was less drunkenness on the third Sabbath than there was on the first?—No, I could not say that; I think it is working uniformly well. I know that the first Sunday I heard it was worse than afterwards, but I have no direct evidence to prove it.

4209. Is there anything else you wish to state to the Committee?—I have to state, that another important feature of the Act is, that it provides for the closing of public-houses on weekdays at eleven o'clock P.M., and limits their opening to seven o'clock, A.M. This has been found to diminish drunkenness materially on the weekdays as well as on the Sabbath, when they are closed entirely.

4210. You state generally that there is satisfaction with the Act?—There is decidedly satisfaction with the Act. I may state that we had a thanksgiving offered up in one of the largest churches in the town, and the church was crowded with the people that came forward.

4211. Had the thanksgiving any reference to the law which has closed the liquor-shops on the Sabbath day?—Yes; there is a very strong feeling, I think, favourable throughout all Scotland in reference to it.

4212. Is it your opinion, that places of rational recreation which are now closed on Sunday can be opened without mischief?—I am afraid not, with reference to Scotland. We have a very strong feeling of the necessity of sanctifying the Sabbath in Scotland. I fear it would not at all do. I think places of recreation and amusement, public libraries, museums, public parks, and means of that kind, should be used on weekdays. I think the Scotch people would go to church without seeking to go to those places on Sunday. I mean the great bulk of the community.

4213. Those other places are not closed on weekdays?—No; I think we ought to multiply them to a much larger extent than they are at present; and I think they would exert a very beneficial influence.

4214. Where

Rev. *A. K. M'Callum*, A.M.

23 June 1854.

4214. Where do you expect that the people who have hitherto gone to the alehouse on the Sabbath-day in Scotland, will go now that the alehouses are closed?—I believe a great many of them will go to the house of God. They say, in most cases, they have no clothes; and we know they have been deprived of the means of getting clothes from the habit of drinking.

4215. They will not be at church all day; is there any objection, during the intervals of Divine worship, to their going to gardens, museums, and libraries?—I think there is; we hold that it is a violation of the Sabbath.

4216. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you see any objection to people going to such places as botanical gardens and parks, where they can see the works of the Almighty in their most beautiful form; do not you think that must teach them there is a superior Being, who created all those things; and do not you think having an opportunity of going to those places would wean them, in some measure, from the public-houses?—I believe it would wean them from the public-houses in some measure; but I believe it would, at the same time, violate the Sabbath. I hold the law of God to be above the law of man in that respect.

4217. If you permit the people go to those places, do not you think it would afford relief to people, who would attend the public-houses to a much greater extent?—I believe it would; but it would be only one of two evils. One would be far less, it is true, than the other; I mean in reference to the people going to those places. I believe sobriety would have a tendency to induce many to go to the house of God, and derive advantage from it.

4218. *Chairman.*] Your observations peculiarly apply to Scotland; you would not apply them to England?—I speak of Scotland entirely; but of course they would refer to every place.

4219. Have you any opinion with respect to England upon that subject?—I am not speaking of England, I speak of Scotland; I believe it would outrage the sentiments of the better part of the community. Besides, I think it would tend to a great many other evils afterwards.

F. R. Lees, Esq., PH.D., called in; and Examined.

F. R. Lees, Esq., PH.D.

4220. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you wish to make some communictaion to the Committee upon the subject of closing liquor-houses on Sunday?—The statement which I desire to make is this: that I have had a very extensive acquaintance with the working classes, as a public teacher and editor, for 20 years.

4221. In what parts of the country?—During the last three years I have made frequent visits to the chief towns of Scotland, Ireland, and England, especially the manufacturing districts. I would desire to say that I know the feelings of the working classes especially, and with that feeling many of the middle ranks sympathise, to be freed as much as practicable from the temptations of the public-house; and especially to have those houses closed upon the Sabbath. A proof of this is furnished in the town of Leeds, in which I reside. On Monday week, a public meeting was held in our great Cloth Hall, so large that none could be compared with it since the times of the Catholic agitation; 20,000 at least were there. It was put to the vote; and though the interest of the publicans was brought to bear upon the point, and clamour prevented the clergymen and others who wished to plead for the closing of the houses from being heard, the vote was at least two to one for the closing of the houses; and the same feeling is illustrated in another way.

4222. How was that majority of two to one ascertained?—It was the opinion of the mayor.

4223. We have had doubts expressed here as to which way the meeting decided, in some evidence given soon after it occurred; has it, since that time, been ascertained that there was a large majority in favour of closing the public-houses on Sunday?—There was a doubt about the majority voting for the amendment being considerably larger than that voting against the motion; but that is explained in a very simple way. The publicans had large placards which were hoisted before the mayor put the vote, and this led to a mistake with regard to the amendment; but when the motion came to be put, the mayor had not the slightest hesitation in saying that there was an immense majority in favour of closing public-houses on the Sunday; and on the following week the mayor presided at two large meetings in our Music Hall, which were crowded to excess, simply to discuss the Maine law. I mean a law for doing all the week that which was proposed for the Sabbath. On putting it to the vote, to the astonishment of our chief magis-

F. R. Lees, Esq., PH.D.

23 June 1854.

trate, the meeting was unanimous with one exception; one hand only was held up in opposition.

4224. You say this was after the great meeting in the Cloth Hall?—It was last Monday.

4225. Was due notice given of this second meeting?—Yes.

4226. Is the Music Hall a public place?—Yes; the Music Hall is where our political meetings are held.

4227. Could any person come to the meeting?—Yes.

4228. Was the meeting packed at all?—No, it was a free discussion.

4229. Was there any discussion?—No; the meeting was all one way.

4230. Did anybody come forward on the other side?—No one came forward on the other side, although we had reason to believe that a discussion would take place. The mayor said, at the closing of the meeting, that he thought the advocates for closing the houses on Sunday had made out a very strong case; which accounts for the fact of opposition not being manifested.

4231. How many people were there in the Music Hall?—It was very crowded; there were probably 1,500.

4232. Of what class were they?—Of all classes.

4233. Were there a great many working people?—There were a great number. I marked also many of our first tradesmen, and several of our clergymen.

4234. Was it held in the evening?—It was held in the evening at 8 o'clock.

4235. As far as you are aware of, the townspeople of Leeds are in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday?—Yes, and elsewhere in all the chief cities in the North.

4236. You have inferred that from having held public meetings on the subject?—During the last six months, I have attended at least 40 public meetings of an important character. At many of those meetings the mayors of the towns presided; some of those meetings have been attended by at least 1,500 people. In the Rotunda at Dublin, there were 1,200. We had large meetings at Waterford, Belfast, Edinburgh, Dundee, at which the provost was in the chair; Perth, Dumbarton, in the parish church; Dumfries, Carlisle, Norwich, Hull, Bolton, Wigan, and other places.

4237. You met with no opposition?—Not the slightest.

4238. Are you certain that the people are taking an interest in the question and agree with you, or have they shown themselves indifferent to the question and not attended the meetings?—I believe they have taken more interest, as is manifest by the fact that ordinary social meetings for efforts with respect to educational purposes and temperance meetings are badly attended; those meetings are in three cases out of four not generally well attended, but these meetings have been enthusiastic meetings. So strong is my opinion upon the point, that I have no hesitation in saying, if this question were discussed in any of our large towns for the first time, with the fairest play for the advocates of existing interests and the advocates of temperance, my thorough conviction is that the vote would be three to one against the existing system.

4239. You seem to be well acquainted with the habits of working men; how can you account for this inveterate habit of drinking and drunkenness, and yet this readiness to pass to such a totally different state of things?—From the constitution of human nature, physiologically and morally considered; the policy of the working classes is to avoid temptation, resist it they cannot; the appetite for strong drinks is of such a peculiar physical and moral over-riding nature, as to destroy all their best impulses.

4240. Still it seems to require more philosophy to advocate the Maine law than to abstain a little more from going to the public-house?—It is not so practically.

4241. Do you think that the people would submit to it if such a law were passed?—They would not only submit, but with joy.

4242. You have been in the United States, I believe?—Yes.

4243. Have you lately returned?—I returned last autumn.

4244. Was the Maine law in operation in any State through which you travelled?—It was in full operation in three in which I travelled, and in full operation in others which I did not visit.

4245. Was it evaded?—Yes; all laws are evaded.

4246. The law had passed the Legislatures of other states, had it not?—Yes, in Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine. In Massachusetts and Maine, where I stayed nine days, I visited 20 of their chief towns and cities; and, with the exception of Boston, I never saw a drunken man, and I never saw any public facilities for obtaining

strong

strong drink; nor did I ever at the public places, or in travelling by the railway, meet with an individual, with one exception (a lumberman, who landed on the wharf at Portland), whose breath was even tainted with strong drink, proving clearly that it was not in common use.

4247. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Could you obtain any liquor to drink at the hotels?—I will not say that I could not in Boston; I could obtain none in Lynn, none in Lowell, none in Springfield, and none in Portland.

4248. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Did you try to obtain any liquors at hotels?—Yes, I did, by night and by day.

4249. Did you talk to the people upon the subject to collect their opinions?—I did.

4250. Did they seem satisfied?—Every respectable man I met was perfectly satisfied; I conversed with the mayors of the towns, and judges, with whom I had frequent interviews; with medical men and professors of the colleges, and with the working classes, but more especially with the working classes.

4251. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Did you find that in any respect they were not satisfied?—Yes.

4252. Did they state so to you?—Yes; I met several Irish immigrants, and I met with the rowdies, as they are called, who are the frequenters of the taverns in Boston, in which place the law has never been enforced, because only one third of the aldermen were willing to enforce it; but foreign influence was very great.

4253. In the States in which it was enforced did you meet with native Americans, whether respectable or not, who were dissatisfied?—No.

4254. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Does it rest with the local authorities to enforce the law?—Yes; it was in that way they obtained the national measure. It was stated to me by magistrates, who represent the voters, and are there the organs of the municipality, that for 20 years the Maine law has been a municipal fact, and has been in operation in certain districts, and the national legislation upon the matter is the result of municipal legislation. I believe, if the same power were given to the people in this country, it would in many districts result in the same measure.

4255. *Chairman.*] Do you think the town councils in our borough towns would enforce such a law as the Maine law?—I do in Leeds; such councils as would be eventually elected on this issue.

4256. Do you think the corporation of London would?—I do not.

4257. Mr. *Brown.*] Do not you think the licensed victuallers and brewers are so powerful in our municipal corporations that they would overrule the corporation?—No.

4258. Are not the corporations elected by those parties?—They often are. They have great influence, and often interfere in our politics and with our representatives.

4259. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Did you ascertain the feelings of the upper classes in America, who are themselves temperate, with reference to this question; did they feel that they were making a concession of their own liberty for the benefit of the working classes who could not restrain themselves?—Certain parties did feel so, but two-thirds of the higher ranks in America are by personal choice abstainers.

4260. Mr. *Barrow.*] But the upper classes who are indisposed to abstain from personal choice are not precluded from importing liquors?—No, and the poor man can do the same; but it must not be offered for sale openly.

4261. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Are not the upper classes abstainers on medical grounds?—Some are on medical grounds, but the Church has immense influence, and has created a moral sympathy with this movement to an immense extent.

4262. The morality of the question will only bear upon excess; I presume that the Church do not hold that there is anything wrong in drinking a glass of beer?—Indeed they do. There is no doubt about the fact of ministers who are not teetotallers in America not being acceptable. I know many instances of ministers having been rejected or ejected sometimes on the ground that they had not given their sanction to the movement which the people believe so essential to the progress of the country.

4263. *Chairman.*] Does it apply to all ministers of religion?—Yes, to all sects.

4264. Does it apply to priests as well as ministers?—It applies to all, from the bishop to the ordinary minister and town missionary.

4265. Have you any other information to give the Committee as to the state of opinion in favour of closing public-houses on the Sunday?—I do not

F. R. Lees, Esq., PH.D.

23 June 1854.

not know that I have, save this: that within the last year, an "Alliance" for the purpose of creating and organising the public opinion which we believe to exist, has been formed in Manchester as its centre, which has already received extraordinary support from the country, amongst others from clergymen, ministers, and magistrates; it numbers 400 individuals of influence on its council, and is now starting, under the most favourable auspices, a weekly journal for the exposition of the entire question.

4266. Do you think the opinion is growing in this country?—I think opinion upon the subject in this country is growing fast.

4267. From what you have observed, do you believe that more drunkenness takes place on Sunday than on any other day in the week?—Undoubtedly.

4268. Do you think that there is more drunkenness on Sunday than on Saturday or Monday?—Yes.

4269. At what time on Sunday do you think the drunkenness takes place?—In the afternoons and evenings.

4270. You find people do not get drunk in the morning, owing to the public-houses being closed during that part of Sunday?—I have no doubt about it; I was in Scotland the third Sunday of the operation of the new Act. I recollect on former occasions visiting the Cowgate and Canongate, in Edinburgh, and I do not recollect spending two hours in Edinburgh without seeing at least a score of cases of drunkenness and appearances of disorder, but for three hours on the Sunday I have referred to, in this district I met with no man at all intoxicated; only one boy, about 14 or 15, slightly affected.

4271. Did you observe whether the public-houses being closed on a Sunday had any effect upon the other days of the week; that the people made up on the Monday for not having been drunk on the Sunday?—I have no reason to think that that is the case.

4272. Have you observed that their habits are very intemperate in Scotland? I do not believe that they are so much more intemperate than our own.

4273. Are there not more public-houses?—There are more public-houses, but there are also moral influences, of a superior character, counteracting those other influences.

4274. Is there any doubt that there are more houses for the sale of spirits in proportion to the population in Scotland than in England?—In some cases in England we are as bad as in Scotland with respect to the number of houses.

4275. In what two towns would you make the comparison?—Liverpool and Glasgow.

4276. Do you mean that there are more public-houses in Liverpool than in Glasgow?—There are not more places where spirits may be had. I have not the number in my mind, but I should say there is not much difference.

4277. Has there not been a return, showing that nearly one house in ten sells drams in Glasgow?—I cannot answer that question as to the number. I know, in the case of our manufacturing districts, in these statistics I have observed very frequently that beerhouses are not included, and other houses of an illegal character, at which beer is sold under 1½*d.* a quart, which is a very pernicious agent. There are numerous places of that description in Leeds and Manchester.

4278. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Am I to understand you to say that those houses which sell nominally small beer do sell in reality beer of a stronger quality?—It is strong in intoxicating influence; not from alcohol, but from tobacco and nux vomica, and other drugs. It is called, in our district, "stiff-shackle."

4279. *Chairman.*] You are of opinion that there is not more drunkenness in Scotch towns than in English towns?—I do not think there is much more.

4280. Is not the facility for getting licences greater in Scotland than in England?—It is, with the exception of beerhouses. Beerhouses have sprung up in great abundance in this country, and they may be easily obtained in many districts. I speak rather with reference to the entire amount of drink consumed. I am persuaded that the English people consume nearly as much alcohol in one form or another as the people do in Scotland, having regard to population.

4281. Mr. *Brown.*] How do you account for a larger quantity of spirits being drunk in Scotland than in England in proportion to the population?—Because the Scotch people have no taste at present formed for beer.

4282. Mr. *Barrow.*] You have stated that you think there is not more drunkenness in Scotland than in England; how do you account for so many more persons being apprehended by the police for drunkenness in Scotland than in England?—Much drunkenness exists in England which never comes before the police, as in

in the Manchester returns. It is an instruction to the police in Manchester that they shall take up no one who is not very disorderly. There are hundreds and thousands of cases of drunkenness which may be detected by observers which never come before the magistracy. In Scotland, owing to the liquor being more potent in its immediate effect, the outward disorder arises more readily from spirits than from beer; but I believe ultimately the crimes resulting are essentially the same in character.

4283. Mr. *Brown.*] Probably you would be of opinion that Liverpool and Glasgow do not afford a very fair exponent of the state of the country, inasmuch as they are both seaport towns, and an immense body of seamen come there, which would take them out of the general category?—I quite admit that that is the case.

4284. *Chairman.*] You have spent many Sundays in the United States, how do working people spend their time on that day; have they any places of recreation to go to?—There are places of recreation in various States. In some there is a more strict religious observance of the Sabbath, as in the older States; in others, a more lax and more Continental method.

4285. Where the houses are closed under the influence of the Maine law, how do people spend their Sunday?—Unfortunately, in Boston, and other of the largest cities, much in the same way as people do in London or in Manchester.

4286. I think in New York there is no law in operation of that sort?—There is no Maine law in the State of New York at present; in some counties, however, the no-licence law is enforced, and I observed the utmost order. I may say the difference between the towns in those States in which the law is in operation, and those in which the old system prevails, is much about the difference which exists between one of our most moral districts on the Sunday, and the ordinary festival or working days in the week.

4287. In those cases where you observed that, there are not places of recreation opened where the people attend?—No; with the exception of New York and Boston, certainly not.

4288. Are there any public places in which the people can walk?—All the American cities are beautifully formed in that respect.

4289. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Are there any public gardens?—They have not any public gardens; many of them have cemeteries and walks, where thousands can take a quiet walk; but I never observed, out of the two cities of Boston and New York, anything like disorder either upon the Sunday or other days in the week.

4290. Mr. *Brown.*] Do not the people in America go to gardens or some places of recreation on Sunday; I presume all of them do not go to church?—There are no parks in our sense of the word; there is the open country.

4291. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Are not the States in which the Maine law is introduced also States in which Sunday is most strictly observed?—There are exceptions to that, as in Connecticut; they have been remarkable there for the strict puritanical observance of the Sabbath, and they are still, independently of the Maine law, altogether more strict than any other State. As a general observation, it is true that in the Maine law States there is a more strict observance of the Sabbath.

4292. Mr. *Brown.*] In the State of Connecticut, do the people travel on Sunday by railway?—No, the ordinary trains do not run; there is always a train morning and evening. I went one Sunday by a mail train from Ohio to Pennsylvania, having a meeting to attend on Sunday night.

4293. *Chairman.*] Have you any objection to places of recreation being opened on Sunday, which are now closed?—I think they would be very advantageous.

4294. Do you see any evil which is likely to follow from opening those places to the working people on Sunday?—No; if they are of an innocent character, and afford pure recreation, free from the temptations of drink.

4295. Have you seen any instance in which that has been tried, where the people have used them and no evil has followed, in England?—In England and Wales.

4296. Can you mention any one instance of a remarkable character?—At Aberdare and Glen Neath, in Wales, very much good has resulted from the railway giving access to some gardens on the Sabbath; it has very much diminished drunkenness, but that arises from the fact that those gardens are not connected with the facility of obtaining intoxicating liquors.

4297. Is it not very much the habit of the Welsh people to go to alehouses on Sunday?—Yes; no doubt.

F. R. Lees, Esq., PH.D.

23 June 1854.

4298. Has there been much opposition to opening places of recreation, at the meetings you have attended upon the subject of closing public-houses on Sunday; would there be much objection to opening gardens and other places of rational recreation, which are now closed?—I think there would be an objection upon the part of some of the religious denominations.

4299. But I presume there are many persons engaged in this movement who do not fall under the denomination of peculiarly religious people?—Precisely; those persons are favourable to every species of substitutionary recreation.

4300. Do you think, if a recommendation were made that public-houses should be further closed than they are now, on Sunday, that it ought to be accompanied with a recommendation to open places of innocent resort?—Yes, I think it is quite requisite.

4301. Mr. *Brown.*] Is it your opinion that, if botanical gardens, free libraries, and museums, and other places of rational recreation, were accessible to the people on Sunday, that it would be the means of weaning them from the public-houses?—I have no doubt it would tend to reform them; but a complete reform, I think, can be effected only by removing the temptation completely.

4302. And also relieve the people who are employed at the public-houses to a much greater extent than people are employed in keeping those places open?—No doubt.

Arthur Hill Hassall, Esq., M.D., called in, and Examined.

A. H. Hassall, Esq. M. D.

4303. *Chairman.*] YOU are a medical man, I believe?—I am a Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians; I practise as a Physician.

4304. I believe you have given some attention to the adulteration of articles of food and of liquors?—I have directed, for some years past, considerable attention to the general subject of adulteration.

4305. Have you had occasion to consider the adulteration which takes place in the malt liquors and spirits which are sold in London?—Yes, more particularly with respect to malt liquors.

4306. To what extent have you carried your analyses?—I have made numerous original analyses of samples of porter obtained from the taps of many of the principal brewers in London, and also of other samples obtained from publicans.

4307. What do you call the taps of the brewers?—The taps are public-houses indirectly attached to the principal breweries; they are situated close to the brewery, and the public believe that, at those establishments, they obtain the beer of each brewery in its genuine state.

4308. You mean the beer just as it is actually brewed?—That is really the belief entertained by the public, but there is reason to suppose that beer is sometimes sold at those places not in its genuine state, but of reduced strength.

4309. You have obtained samples from those taps, and samples from public-houses, which you have analysed?—Yes; I have obtained in all nearly 50 samples.

4310. Of both beer and ale?—Stouts and porters. I would state as the general result of these analyses, that I find that the porters procured at the taps of the breweries have a greater average strength than those obtained from publicans. This difference is shown in the accompanying tables to some extent; and I believe if it had been in my power to have procured samples of porter direct from the breweries, the difference indicated would have been much more considerable; because, although it is generally supposed that the porter obtained from the brewery taps is genuine, I am satisfied that it is not so in all cases. I believe, however, that the brewers are not in any way responsible for the quality of beer supplied at the taps, which are ordinary public-houses as far as their licence goes; but they differ in being placed close to a brewery, and in being allowed to use the word "tap" over the door.

4311. Your observation that the brewers are not answerable for the quality of the beer supplied at the taps, would apply also to what is sold by publicans or customers of the brewers?—Yes.

4312. They are not responsible for anything done to the beer after it has been sold by them?—No; it is sold, I believe, to the publicans who keep those taps in the ordinary manner. The taps are intended principally to supply the workpeople attached to the brewery with any beer which they may require, over and above a certain quantity

quantity which is allowed to the men in the brewery, and they have to pay for it. They might go to any other public-house, but they give the preference to the tap, because they believe they get the beer stronger; and they, no doubt, in many cases, do get it stronger than they would at a common public-house.

4313. You find a great difference with the beer at those taps and at public-houses?—I find a considerable difference; and I am satisfied the difference would be still greater, if I could have procured the porter from the different breweries.

4314. Will you give the result of your analyses?—The account is contained in the tables which I will hand in. Those tables show that the best and strongest beers have the greatest weight, and that they contain the most alcohol. Taking the stouts obtained from the taps of some of the chief brewers, I find the weight to range, as compared with water, between 1,016 and 1,031; and the quantities of alcohol of sp. gr. 793, to range, with one exception, between 5·85 per cent. and 4·53 per cent.; that is the difference I find to exist in the strength of the different stouts I have obtained from the taps of the breweries.

4315. Mr. *Barrow.*] That is a difference of strength of about one-sixth?—Yes; rather more than that, omitting sample 9, which furnished 7·15 per cent. of alcohol.

4316. Mr. *Brown.*] Is it not the fact, that alcohol is much lighter than water?—Yes. Then taking the samples of stout which I obtained indifferently at various public-houses, I find the quantity of alcohol to range, with one exception, from 4·87 down to 3·19.

[*The Witness delivered in the following Tables:*]

RESULTS of the Chemical Analysis of Samples of STOUT and PORTER purchased at the Taps of different London Brewers. Contents of Imperial Gallon, 70,000 Grains by Weight.

Numbers.	Specific Gravity.	Acetic Acid Grains.	Alcohol of sp. gr. ·793 grains, Temp. 60.	Per Centage of Alcohol.	Sugar Grains.	Gum Grains.	Extractive Grains.	Ash of Extractive Grains.	
Stouts:									
1	1,016	485·7	4097·4	5·85	2248·0	1047·2	3270·0	145·6	- - Contains a small quantity of salt.
2	1,031	345·4	3661·1	5·23	3206·8	651·8	5724·4	95·2	
3	1,027	485·7	3517·1	5·02	3229·8	1298·0	6163·4	190·4	Contains salt.
4	1,017	507·3	3418·1	4·88	- -	357·4	4189·8	193·4	Contains salt.
5	1,022	453·3	3342·7	4·77	3139·0	490·0	5588·1	123·3	Contains salt.
6	1,026	485·7	3616·0	5·16	2047·4	929·6	5784·8	128·8	Contains salt.
7	1,024	447·9	3172·9	4·53	2285·0	1271·2	5712·0	140·0	Contains rather much.
8	1,018	518·1	3247·2	4·64	2965·3	603·3	3892·7	100·8	
9	1,018	534·3	5009·5	7·15	2466·0	536·3	4603·0	140·0	
10	1,015	582·9	3535·4	5·05	3206·7	265·1	- -	128·8	
Porters:									
1	1,009	269·8	2506·6	3·58	1644·8	317·0	2735·5	140·0	- - Contains a small quantity of salt.
2	1,017	442·5	3068·7	4·38	2293·0	248·0	3551·2	100·8	- - Contains a very small quantity of salt.
3	1,014	394·0	2620·9	3·74	2028·6	692·1	2959·3	100·8	Contains salt.
4	1,011	512·7	2293·8	3·27	1626·3	368·9	3040·7	152·7	- - Contains a small quantity of salt.
5	1,018	519·4	2735·9	3·95	2613·0	368·9	3817·0	89·6	- - Contains a small quantity of salt.
6	1,013	313·0	- -	- -	1962·6	161·3	3139·0	56·0	Contains a little salt.
7	1,012	377·8	1699·2	2·42	2041·8	363·3	3240·8	145·6	Contains salt.

The differences indicated in the Table would have been much more considerable and obvious, had equal quantities by measure of the stouts and porters been taken in place of by weight.

RESULTS of the Chemical Analysis of STOUT and PORTER purchased of Publicans. Contents of Imperial Gallon, 70,000 Grains by Weight.

Number.	Specific Gravity.	Acetic Acid Grains.	Alcohol of sp. gr. ·793 grains, Temp. 60.	Per Centage of Alcohol.	Sugar Grains.	Gum Grains.	Extractive Grains.	Ash of Extractive Grains.	———
Stouts:									
1	1,022	264·4	3409·7	4·87	- -	461·5	4801·4	186·0	Contains salt.
2	1,014	275·2	3208·2	4·58	3089 1	90·0	4160·1	196·0	Contains salt.
3	1,019	201·4	3137·6	4·48	3628·5	468·2	4181·4	128·8	Contains rather much salt.
4	1,017	259·0	4369·8	6·24	2656·4	1084·3	4833·3	168·0	Contains a little salt.
5	1,030	340·0	2947·4	4·21	4313·3	702·0	6294·3	168·0	Contains much salt.
6	1,017	362·8	3185·3	4·55	- -	914·1	4746·3	348·0	Contains salt.
7	1,025	235·9	3326·7	4·75	3780·2	- -	6290·0	163·4	Contains salt.
8	1,019	197·4	2344·6	3·35	3396·7	481·2	5065·2	212·8	Contains salt.
9	1,015	690·8	2232·2	3·19	1695·6	588·2	3397·5	134·4	Contains salt.
10	1,012	275·2	2664·5	3·80	1609·1	438·6	2674·9	67·2	
Porters:									
1	1,010	286·0	1878·8	2·68	1224·1	449·9	2331·3	145·6	Contains much salt.
2	1,017	345·4	2033·6	2·90	2115·1	587·9	2879·6	84·0	Contains salt.
3	1,016	394·0	2190·0	3·12	2019.0	102·6	4150·4	95·2	Contains salt.
4	1,014	458·7	2075·7	2·96	1556·9	836·1	3903·2	235·2	Contains much salt.
5	1,009	334·6	2211·6	3·15	2002·2	211·7	2834·1	128·8	Contains rather much salt.
6	1,012	458·7	1650·8	2·35	1736·7	591·6	3141·4	218·4	Contains much salt.
7	1,015	361·6	2369·0	3·38	1691·4	575·5	3084·9	145·6	Contains salt.
8	1,010	340·0	1869·6	2·67	2259·2	614·0	3593·4	218·4	Contains salt.
9	1,017	356·2	1323·9	1·89	1756·8	551·8	3371·2	151·2	Contains salt.
10	1,014	485·7	2059·6	2·94	2070·5	559·8	3231·0	184·8	Contains much salt.
11	1,018	420·9	2089·3	2·98	2635·4	993·3	4428·6	123·2	Contains rather much salt.
12	1,016	404·8	1716·8	2·45	1560·0	445·8	2828·3	173·6	Contains much salt.
13	1,014	345·4	2685·9	3·83	1745·7	691·2	3808·0	140·0	Contains a little salt.
14	1,013	350·8	1993·7	2·84	1186·0	867·0	2373·2	295·0	Contains salt.
15	1,009	442·5	2201·9	3·14	1241·2	551·8	2055·0	134·4	Contains salt.
16	1,015	410·2	1902·4	2·71	2571·1	359·3	- -	151·2	
17	1,012	334·6	2033·6	2·90	1690·1	620·0	3164·0	162·4	Contains a little salt.
18	1,014	394·0	2098·6	2·99	1718·3	1178·5	4317·4	263·2	Contains salt.
19	1,014	388·6	1267·5	1·81	1942·4	991·0	3460·1	190·4	Contains much salt.
20	1,012	356·2	2780·1	3·67	2154·9	542·4	3712·8	72·8	

4317. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Are the Committee to understand that stout ought to represent a certain fixed amount of alcohol in every case?—No, not exactly; there is no exact standard. Taking the general results of the whole analyses, I find, as the rule, that stouts obtained at public-houses contain less alcohol than those obtained at the taps of the brewers. The average result is, that the stouts procured at the brewers' taps are the strongest.

4318. Sir. *J. Pakington.*] I presume the inference from that fact is, that they are rather weakened than adulterated?—Yes; the evidence appears to show, that they are weakened by the addition of water, but that is essentially an adulteration as much as any other addition or substitution.

4319. The adulteration you are now speaking of takes the shape of diminishing the strength by the addition of water?—Yes.

4320. Mr. *Brown.*] Why is it that those stouts which have the most alcohol are the heaviest?—The effect of the spirit is to lighten the actual weight of the beer. I have merely mentioned the weight, because the weight affords some indication of the strength. Stouts contain more extractive grains than porters, and therefore are heavier, notwithstanding the comparatively larger quantity of alcohol which they contain.

4321. Mr. *Barrow.*] They contain more matter of some other description?—They contain more saccharine matter. Going on to the analyses of porter, I find the same general result; the quantity of alcohol in the porters obtained at the different taps varies from 4·38 to 2·42, per cent. being the lowest quantity. But when I turn to the table giving the results of the analyses of porters obtained from public-houses, I find the highest quantity to be 3·83, and the lowest 1·81 per cent. of alcohol, of the specific gravity before mentioned, viz. ·793.

4322. *Chairman.*]

4322. *Chairman.*] That is the difference in public-houses?—Yes; the difference ranges between those two figures. I would state generally, that the result of the whole of those analyses is, that there is a considerable reduction of strength between the stouts and porters obtained at brewers' taps and those sold at ordinary public-houses; but the difference, as I said before, would have been more considerable, I am satisfied, if I had gone to each brewery and obtained samples of stouts and porters in the state in which they are ordinarily delivered to their customers. I would suggest, that it appears to me to be of very great importance to the purposes of the present inquiry, that samples of porter should be procured direct from the breweries for the purpose of analysis. I believe the Excise are permitted to enter breweries in the course of their duty.

4323. Is it not the case that some brewers have no fixed standard of strength with respect to the beer they send out?—They are hardly, perhaps, aware of the exact strength; but they know generally the strength of the beer they supply.

4324. Have you had any communication with any of the brewers in London?—I made an application to four of our principal brewers only within the last two or three days. I have not as yet had time to receive a reply.

4325. Will you give some further account of the analyses of those samples?—The addition of water, I am now going on to state, is not the only adulteration of porter. The water added, of course, reduces the strength and the colour of the beer, and this to such an extent in many cases as to render the employment of other articles necessary.

4326. The water increases the bulk, I presume?—That increases the bulk. One of those articles sometimes used is a coarse description of brown sugar. For the evidence of the use of this by publicans I must rely upon the statements which other people have made to me. I have been informed that some grocers are in the habit of supplying publicans with a kind of brown sugar, which is commonly known as "Foots:" it is half sugar and half treacle. I should have been able to establish the fact as to whether publicans used sugar or not in their beer, were it not for the circumstance that brewers are themselves, I believe, authorised to use brown sugar in the brewery. I do not know whether that is correct or not; at all events that is the information I have received.

4327. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] Therefore, the appearance of sugar would prove nothing?—No. I was deterred from carrying the examination to the extent I would really have gone; but if I had detected the presence of sugar in the samples of porter I purchased at public-houses, I should not have been able to have said whether the brewer or the publican had put it there.

4328. *Chairman.*] You have no doubt of its presence, I presume?—I have no doubt from the evidence which has been given me that it is frequently used by publicans. It is used more particularly in those cases where water has been added, because the use of water renders the use of something else necessary.

4329. Is sugar used to give weight or flavour to the beer?—To increase the colour, and to give flavour and weight to the beer. It has all those effects.

4330. Mr. *Brown.*] Are you aware whether the sugar which is used by the brewers in the process of making beer undergoes fermentation, or is it merely used as the publicans would use it?—It would undergo fermentation in the same way as the sugar contained in the malt would ferment. Brewers, I am told, but seldom make use of sugar in their breweries, because they have ascertained from experience that beer made with any large proportion of sugar does not keep so well as when it is prepared entirely from malt. In the next place, I would state that I find nearly all London porter to contain salt; this article, I know, is used in many cases, and perhaps principally by the brewers. I believe they do not use it for the purpose of adulteration, but to effect some object in the preparation of the beer. It is said to assist in the fining of the wort previous to fermentation. A short time since, I visited a brewery at Chelsea, and one of the proprietors showed me a pan of salt and flour mixed together, and he described to me the mode of using it. It seems, from the information I received, that the use of this mixture is general in porter breweries; but still I should be much disposed to think that salt is sometimes used by publicans as well, because it is very obvious it would be a cheap and ready means of increasing the flavour of porter which was reduced in strength, and because of the amount in which it is sometimes present.

A. H. Hassall, Esq. M.D.

23 June 1854.

4331. Do you mean that they use salt as well as sugar?—Yes, in some cases.

4332. It would affect the flavour, I presume, if it is used?—It would increase the flavour.

4333. Is flour used by any brewers?—Flour is mixed with the salt; that mixture, they seem to say, acts in fining the wort. I do not know in what way, but I believe it does so.

4334. Mr. *K. Seymer.*] I suppose the salt, besides fining the wort, would make the persons who drink the beer more thirsty?—It would have that tendency; the quantity is not usually very large, but in many cases it is so large that you may detect the flavour of salt in porter; it is just perceptible to the taste.

4335. Sir *J. Pakington.*] The kinds of adulteration which you have now mentioned to the Committee, do not tend to make beer less wholesome, do they?—I should say not altogether, unless an excess of salt were used.

4336. An excess of water would not have that effect?—No; I can answer that question positively. The fourth substance which I have good reason to believe is sometimes used in beer, is steel or sulphate of iron; but this is not commonly present in London porters. Indeed, I have not found it present in a single sample which I have myself submitted to examination; and I have examined 50 samples, the results of which are stated in these tables. But yet, in conversing with bottlers of beer and others, I am satisfied that it is sometimes used; it is said to give a head to the beer, and to prevent or to retard secondary fermentation in bottled beer; the more respectable bottlers do not use it, however, for I have examined the porter of several dealers in bottled beer, without finding iron.

4337. *Chairman.*] What is the precise object of giving the beer a head; is it a fancy which people have who drink it; probably it does not improve it?—It is a great recommendation to beer, and especially bottled beer, that it should froth well, persons like to see it with a froth on the top.

4338. That does not depend upon the introduction of sulphate of iron?—Not altogether, but the frothing is said to be much assisted by the addition of a small quantity of iron. If this iron had been present in any of the samples which I have examined, in as small a quantity as two grains to nine gallons, I should have had no difficulty in finding it there; because when I came to incinerate some of the extract of the beer or porter, and had reduced that extract to an ash, I should have found the ash to be tinged, if iron was present, with the red oxide of that metal, if it had been used in that proportion. I found the ashes left to be white, or almost white. I think I need not go into the question of the use of a variety of other substances which are no doubt sometimes employed in the adulteration of beer, because I have no direct evidence of my own to offer upon their use; such as coculus indicus, grains of paradise, vegetable bitters, gentian, quassia, and camomile, &c.

4339. You have heard that they are used?—I have no doubt that they are used from the general evidence I have received.

4340. For what purpose?—I am far from wishing to be understood as saying that they are commonly used in London porters, but they are used more or less throughout the country. With regard to one of those substances, I would just make one statement: a party, upon whose testimony I may rely, has informed me that he himself has actually seen camomiles used in beer by a brewer living in Temple-street, Bristol. The brewer at the same time told my informant that either gentian or camomiles were used by nearly every brewer in Bristol for the purpose of producing that quality of beer which is familiarly known in Bristol by the name of "Burton;" they do not call it "Burton beer," but simply "Burton." I think that I have now given nearly all the evidence I have to offer as respects the adulteration of porter, as far as I am myself able speak to it from direct observation.

4341. I asked you just now whether you knew the effect produced by those other substances when they were mixed with the beer; you have not analysed any beer which would lead you to suppose they are used?—Coculus indicus imparts an intoxicating property when present in a minute quantity to the beer, leading persons to suppose that it is really strong beer, and they are readily brought under its influence; but it is not from real strength, but from the intoxicating properties of that drug.

4342. If coculus indicus were put into the beer in a very small quantity, the consumer

consumer might imagine that he had a strong beverage?—He would, in nine cases out of ten; he would judge from the effects it produced upon him.

4343. Would it make him stupid?—Stupid and giddy; apparently intoxicating him more readily than good strong beer.

4344. You have not had beer submitted to you which would throw a light upon the fact of that substance being used?—I have not; the detection of cocculus indicus in beer is a matter of considerable difficulty, but still in the poorer kinds of beer, in some of those pale poor beers which are sold in the country, it is quite possible that chemical analysis might detect its presence. Quassia and gentian are used for the sake of bitterness, and camomile from its resemblance to the hop in its properties.

4345. Sir *J. Pakington.*] Camomile, I apprehend, would not make the beer unwholesome?—No.

4346. Mr. *Brown.*] Neither iron nor camomile would make the beer unwholesome?—Iron, if it were present in any but very small quantities, would render beer stimulating and tonic, which would not be desirable in some cases; but the quantity used, even when employed, is but small, and its medicinal effects would not be considerable. I am not aware whether the Committee would like to receive any evidence on the subject of the adulteration of spirits, more particularly gin; I have not made so many examinations myself of gin as I have of London porter, but at the same time I am aware of the nature of the principal adulterations to which it is made subject.

4347. *Chairman.*] From your own examination?—Yes, at different times, but not upon the extended scale I have examined porters. In the first place, gin is commonly reduced in strength, and then, to sweeten it, lump sugar is almost always employed; it is used chiefly for its flavour and (in some cases) to deceive the exciseman.

4348. Have the samples which you have examined been obtained from distillers or from publicans?—All from publicans; I have no evidence of adulteration on the part of the distillers.

4349. How is lump sugar used to deceive the exciseman?—The excise officers, I believe, are in the habit of visiting public-houses, in order to ascertain the strength of the spirits for the premises. The more alcohol there is in spirit, of course the lighter it is, and if you add sugar, you increase the weight of the spirit; so that when the exciseman comes to test it, he finds he gets a heavy spirit, and concludes that it does not contain much alcohol, whereas, if lump sugar has been added, it may contain a considerable quantity of alcohol, and so he may be deceived. I dare say the excise officers are prepared for this deception.

4350. For what purpose are those visits of excise officers to public-houses?—I suppose to ascertain that they are not selling or keeping spirits over a certain proof. A solution of cayenne pepper is commonly used to increase the pungency of gin; it is used in the form of a tincture, so that it mixes readily with the spirit; but the addition of water to any strong spirituous liquid has the effect of making the mixture turbid and milky, and this necessitates a subsequent process of fining. To fine this mixture of water and ordinary spirits, carbonate of potash (commonly called salt of tartar) and alum are employed; those subside to the bottom, and carry with them the essential oil upon which the turbidity depends, leaving the spirit clear and bright. The use of potash and alum, to fine gin, is very frequent indeed.

4351. What is the advantage of mixing those things with gin?—The use of the sugar and the cayenne pepper is determined by the addition of water; it is necessary to bring up again the flavour to a certain palatable standard. Then other articles are stated to be and are probably used, such as oil of turpentine and sulphuric acid; I have not met with them myself, and, if they were employed, it would be impossible to use them except in very minute quantities. Oil of vitriol would be an injurious adulteration, if practised.

4352. It could be ascertained, I suppose?—It could be ascertained by analysis.

4353. You have said that you have not taken a great many samples of gin?—No.

4354. Have you taken your samples promiscuously from different parts of London?—Yes, from different public-houses in different parts of the town.

4355. I believe it is not legal to reduce the strength of gin?—I am not aware; but a reduction of strength would, in my opinion, constitute an adulteration as much

A. H. Hassall, Esq. M.D.

23 June 1854.

much as the addition of cayenne pepper, alum, or potash; a large addition of water constitutes a virtual adulteration.

4356. Mr. *Brown.*] Had the parties any knowledge of what you wanted these samples for?—No. The results of my examinations are in all cases subsequently published and made known to the public, but not at the time. Supposing the fact of adulteration in porter and stout to be clearly established, I wish to ask whether it is the intention of the Committee to consider in what way that adulteration could be met; because, if so, there are one or two suggestions which I should be glad to make.

4357. *Chairman.*] Can you suggest by what means adulteration could be prevented?—I can suggest how it could be obviated to a very great extent. I would first say, that I think it would be difficult to meet the single question of the adulteration of porter by any special enactment which did not apply equally to the whole subject of adulteration. I do not say that it would not be possible to meet it to some extent without going into the general question of adulteration; but if the whole subject of adulteration were to come under consideration, then I think it would be easy to offer such suggestions as would result in stopping very considerably the practice of adulteration, which now is found to be so universally prevalent in articles of food and drink, and even in drugs and medicines. With regard to adulteration in general, I would offer the following suggestions: First. That what constitutes adulteration should be accurately defined; that would be necessary as a starting point. Secondly. That the adulteration of any article should be made a misdemeanour, punishable under the summary jurisdiction of a magistrate by fines, and in the worse cases, imprisonment. Thirdly. That a central office should be established for the analysation of all suspected articles. This Board should report upon all such articles, and furnish evidence when necessary. Fourthly. That inspectors should be appointed in all the chief towns and principal ports, to prevent alike the importation and exportation of adulterated goods of all kinds, whether food, drink, or medicine. These inspectors to be under the control of the central office, to which they should forward all suspected articles, and address periodical reports. The appointment of such inspectors is of special importance in relation to the adulteration of drugs, since it is known that some of our most valuable medicines are imported into this country in a highly adulterated state. Supposing, however, that it were deemed inexpedient to legislate at present upon the whole subject of adulteration, and it were desired merely to remedy as far as possible the evils resulting from the adulteration of porter, I would then suggest, First. That the brewers should be restricted to sell beers not under certain fixed or standard strengths. Second. That the tests of the strength of beer should be its weight, and the quantity of alcohol contained in it. Third. That the publicans should be similarly restricted. The above regulations would meet the principal adulteration to which beer is liable, namely, that by water; all other adulterations should be dealt with under provisions applicable to adulteration in general.

4358. With respect to dilution, you think a registration of the strength of beer which went from a brewery would be sufficient?—An absolute prohibition of sale by brewers and publicans of beers under certain strengths, but as much over as they please.

4359. Would you propose that a publican should notify to his customers the strength of his beer?—I would propose that it should be declared illegal to sell beer under certain strengths, and that any person doing so would subject himself to fines or penalties.

4360. There are consumers who like strong beer, and others who like weak beer?—I would have a graduated scale of strengths of porter and stout; indeed the different gradations of strength and quality might all be preserved which are now in use.

4361. You would not leave it to the option of the public whether they would consume strong beer or weak beer?—I would; if people knew the strength of the beer, they would know which they would prefer to purchase. They ought to know the quality of the beer they buy.

4362. Sir *J. Pakington.*] What advantage do you propose to gain by the prohibition of the sale of weak beer?—I would not prohibit the sale of weak beer, but I would settle the strength which the beer ought to be, so that it should not be weaker than it professed to be.

4363. Mr. *Barrow.*] The remedy which you propose for adulteration is in force at present; the use of coculus indicus and other deleterious matters of adulteration

teration is already prohibited?—Only to a very limited and partial extent, and only as respects certain things, coculus indicus especially.

4364. *Chairman.*] At present you must have an information against a publican, and he must appear before a magistrate, as he would for any other information?—I think it must come through the Excise.

4365. Is not adulteration forbidden in the licence?—I believe it is so stated in the licence; but I do not know whether the public are aware of the fact, or whether any person can act upon that condition of the licence, except through the Excise.

4366. Mr. *Barrow.*] Your proposal would remove the power from the Excise to a new tribunal?—It might be questionable how far it would be necessary to establish a new tribunal, or whether the objects mentioned could not be carried out either by the Excise or by the Board of Health. That is a question open to very considerable discussion and consideration.

4367. But I understood you to say that health is not affected, except by one or two drugs, such as coculus indicus, and that a moderate quantity of salt or sugar would not make the liquor unwholesome?—My remarks applied to the whole subject of adulteration. No doubt many articles are used to adulterate various matters of food and drink which are very injurious indeed, and very prejudicial to the public health.

4368. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you think there would be any difficulty, when adulterated articles were imported which are not fit to be sold, in returning them; and do not you think that would prevent such an occurrence again?—I do not think there would be any difficulty in most cases. When any article is imported into this country in a highly adulterated state, I think the Customs ought not to receive that article, but to send it back to the person from whom it came, so that he would not again be disposed to send a similar article.

4369. You would prohibit the importation of adulterated articles?—Yes.

4370. Mr. *Barrow.*] At the Custom-house?—Yes; I believe a similar provision exists in some parts of the United States with respect to the importation of drugs. Inspectors are appointed, and they will not receive any but what they believe to be pure drugs.

4371. Do you know anything of a recent decision of Lord Campbell's upon the subject of adulteration?—No.

4372. Did not it arise out of some paper which appeared in the "Lancet"?—No; there never was any action brought into Court resulting from any analysis published in the "Lancet." The "Lancet" has been occasionally threatened with proceedings, but those proceedings have always been stopped at an early period. The only case in which any really serious proceedings were adopted was that of Fry & Sons, with regard to chicory; but this was explained, and the matter dropped.

4373. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you apprehend that any great danger arises to the public health, or the lives of Her Majesty's subjects, by the prescriptions of physicians being different from what they were intended to be, owing to the adulteration of drugs?—No question considerable danger does in many cases arise from the circumstance of a drug rendered inferior in strength, or bad in quality, through adulteration, being supplied in dangerous cases to patients in place of the proper and pure remedy.

4374. *Chairman.*] Would not that also apply to porter or beer in certain cases?—Yes; if it contained coculus indicus, opium or strychnia.

Mr. *John M'Culloch*, Analytical Chemist, called in; and Examined.

4375. *Chairman.*] YOU are an Analytical Chemist, I believe?—I am.

4376. You have been acting for the Government for some years, have you not?—I was educated as an analytical chemist by the Government, and many years employed by them.

4377. You have also had some practice, have you not, under the Board of Inland Revenue, in the chemical analysis of all articles which are subject to fiscal supervision?—I was many years under the Board of Inland Revenue at the Excise-office.

4378. Have you ever had occasion to analyse samples of beer for the Excise?—Yes,

Mr. J. M'Culloch. —Yes, many hundreds of them; and since I left the Excise I have analysed hundreds of samples.

23 June 1854.

4379. Have you done so within a recent time?—I have analysed 480 samples since last Christmas.

4380. Did you find them all genuine?—Only about one in 20.

4381. In what did you find them deficient?—There was principally a reduction of strength by water, with an increase of weight by sugar. There was nothing used which would do any injury (being a mere question of pounds, shillings, and pence), except as regards the Chancellor of the Exchequer's returns.

4382. Do you mean that if there were less water used there would be more genuine beer drunk?—At least one-fourth more, if not one-third.

4383. And therefore more malt consumed?—Certainly. The duty would be increased at least 1,000,000*l.*

4384. Do you state, upon calculations you have derived from your own experience, that it is in that proportion?—It is quite one-fourth, if not a third. The adulteration in the majority of cases amounts to 25 per cent., and in many cases as high as 60 per cent.

4385. How have you been able to make this analysis; have you procured samples from the breweries?—A great many of them direct from the brewery.

4386. There is no difficulty in obtaining samples from brewers; did you do that when you were acting under the Excise?—Both then and since. There is no difficulty in getting brewers' beer as sent out.

4387. There is no scruple on their part in declaring the strength of their beer?—They do not declare the strength of their beer. There is no Excise regulation now to require them to declare the strength, but there is a remarkable uniformity in their working. Out of 40 samples procured from one large establishment, the greatest deviation in alcoholic strength, is only 3–10ths per cent.

4388. Mr. *Brown.*] Were those samples procured from one brewery?—Yes; some were samples from the same brewery, and some were from publicans in that brewer's trade, in the same state as delivered from the brewers' drays. The mode of calculating the alcoholic strength by the Excise is by proof spirit, and not as chemists do by absolute alcohol. Alcohol itself is as definite a composition as sugar or salt; it is a composition that weighs 7 lbs. and 9–10ths of a lb. (it is near enough to say 8 lbs.) a gallon. Water weighs exactly 10 lbs. a gallon; and the Excise authorities' intention originally was, to have the strength that was a mean between those two, viz. to weigh 9 lbs. a gallon; but in the mixing of alcohol and water together there is a condensation takes place. They occupy less bulk when they are mixed, than they would do separately; consequently, the proof strength of Excise spirits now is 9 lbs. and 2–10ths of a lb. per gallon; I would explain it in this way: if a vessel were made to hold exactly 100 gallons, neither more nor less, and if 50 gallons of absolute real alcohol were put into the vessel, and the remaining space filled up with water to 100 gallons or until the cask was full, that would be proof spirit. It was intended to be originally half and half, but the condensation which took place rendered 53 gallons necessary to make up the difference, to make the 100 gallons bulk; so that there is in the mixture of alcohol and water a loss of bulk of 3 gallons in the 100. All Excise calculations are made upon the proof gallon, and not upon absolute alcohol. Now out of upwards of 40 samples of brewers' beer I tried the strength of, it was invariably 10 ½ gallons proof spirit in every 100 gallons of beer.

4389. *Chairman.*] That is the genuine beer?—Yes; of some publicans' samples in that brewer's trade.

4390. What do you mean by some publicans in that brewer's trade?—Licensed victuallers who are supplied by that brewer; there were several samples that did not contain more than 6 gallons and 8–10ths. per cent. of proof spirit.

4391. Will you state a little more particularly how many experiments you made, in which you found this great difference?—Out of about 150 samples belonging to the licensed victuallers dealing at the brewery, alluded to there were not 10 of them within 20 per cent. of the genuine standard.

4392. What did you find it varied?—It varied from 6 8–10ths to 8½ per cent. proof spirit, with an increase of specific gravity; that is, the weight per barrel. The brewers have a term by which they speak of so many pounds per barrel, which means that 36 gallons of their beer is so many pounds heavier than 36 gallons of water; if it is five pounds per barrel, it means that, instead of weighing 360 lbs. which water would do, it weighs 365 lbs. Brewers' beer is remarkably uniform

at

523

Mr. J. M'Culloch.

23 June 1854.

at 4¾ lbs. per barrel. The majority of the publicans range between 6¼ and 7¾. In most of the heavy gravities, cane sugar could be detected. Now, the saccharine matter from malt is starch sugar; it is uncrystallisable; it cannot be crystallised; on the contrary, cane sugar is crystallisable. All brewers are remarkable for agreement in their beers; they do not vary above a half per cent. throughout.

4393. You mean all those breweries from which you had samples?—I had samples from five large breweries. There is a particular case I might mention, in which the beer supplied from the brewery is to an extraordinary extent reduced by the publican. In the instance to which I refer, the publican supplies the labourers in the St. Katharine's Docks; he sends out an immense quantity of beer, and it is reduced to as low as to contain but 6 per cent. of proof spirit. He must have increased 100 gallons of his beer to 170.

4394. Is that done by water?—By water; he has evidently added sugar too, but a very little.

4395. In speaking of quantity and not of weight, you are saying it must have been increased from water?—Yes, he has increased the bulk from 100 to 170 gallons; the specific gravity is about the same as the brewer's, so that he must have added a little sugar, but not much; probably enough to keep up the consistency of the beer.

4396. Does that man sell at a low price?—At 3*d.* a pot; that is a shilling a gallon.

4397. Have you made any other examinations to discover other articles of adulteration?—I have not, beyond water and sugar.

4398. Have you ever found any other articles of adulteration used?—A very small quantity of sulphate of iron is sometimes used; it is never used for the sake of increasing bulk.

4399. Only for giving the beer a head?—That is all.

4400. You have examined different kinds of beer from the breweries, but you say you never found them differ in quality?—Yes, all the beers are different in quality, but very little in quantity as regards proof spirit value.

4401. I mean the same sort from different breweries?—I have examined porter only. I have not examined any ales, the bulk of the article consumed being porter.

4402. Do you conceive that this reduction is always by water, and that it might not be by what is called amber?—For the sake of saving the conscience amber is very often used, and for evading the law as well. Amber is a very inferior description of beer.

4403. What is amber?—I will explain the process of brewing. The process is, first, that by which the brewer converts all the constituent starch of malt into sugar; it is dissolved, and then drained from the residue; after he has, by one or two operations, got all the available sugar, he adds to the grains (now all but exhausted) more water to wash out the last traces of saccharine matter. This last product is then mixed with a large quantity of roasted malt to give a very considerable consistency, and a very dark colour; it is boiled with spent hops, cooled, and a little yeast is added, to induce the vinous fermentation and give it the character of beer. I need not say that it is of very light specific gravity, and very weak in alcohol, but yet it is beer, and that is used for a twofold purpose; it increases the bulk at a very low expense, and enables the publican to falsify his trade.

4404. What do you mean by falsifying his trade?—Instead of being so many barrels of porter sold within a certain period, a great portion of it, I dare say one-third at least, is amber; instead of selling 30 barrels of beer a month, or 30 butts of beer a month, the probability is that only 20 have been real beer, and the other 10 amber.

4405. Who does he deceive?—The deception takes place upon the transfer of the house; he deceives the new comer who wants the house.

4406. Perhaps the new comer has no objection to amber?—Then he would deal with it according to price.

4407. Upon the transfer of a house, the new comer wants to know the amount of custom?—Yes, he wants to know how much beer has been sold, and not amber.

4408. What inducement is there to the publican to follow this process, as far as you know of the trade; is it the love of gain, or because he cannot live without doing it?—It is the love of gain to a certain extent, and it is to meet the extortionate demands of the brewer in another respect.

Mr. *J. M'Culloch.*

23 June 1854.

4409. What do you know about that; does your experience enable you to speak to anything of the sort?—I know a great deal of it; many of those men, upon going into brewers' houses, enter under an engagement upon such terms, that it is impossible by fair trade to meet the extortionate demands of the brewer. I can give you an instance of a house which has been licensed very recently, called the York Hotel, in Duncan-street, Islington. For four years the occupant had been applying for a licence for that house, and each time refused until the appeal this year. There has not been a single house built in the neighbourhood since he first applied for a licence; the inhabitants are less numerous than they were before, yet on the appeal this year he got his licence. He went into that house (it is a well fitted-up house) as a beerseller, having an understanding with the brewer that he should pay 100*l.* a year rent, and in the event of procuring a licence he should pay 20*l.* a year more; that makes 120*l.* rent; and he should also pay down to the brewer 3,000*l.*, or become liable for the amount, and pay five per cent upon it.

4410. The brewer is his landlord?—Yes; it is perfectly impossible that a man can clear himself from an obligation of that sort without resorting to adulteration, both in gin and beer, if he adheres to the retail prices of the neighbourhood.

4411. When those terms were made with the brewer he was the landlord, and then the tenant got a licence?—Yes; his rent was increased 20*l.* a year, and he became indebted to the brewer for the sum of 3,000*l.*, not one farthing of this money having passed between them.

4412. Did he give any security for the money he had not received?—The brewer holds his lease as security.

4413. Do you mean to say that it is a specific obligation; is there any covenant endorsed upon the lease that he should pay the money to his landlord, for which he is liable to pay the interest?—If he does not pay the money, he recognises his obligation, and agrees to pay five per cent. upon that sum.

4414. You are acquainted with those facts, are you?—The man told me so himself.

4415. Do you know what the connexion was between the brewer and procuring the licence, because the brewer does not grant licences, though he may lend money?—I am not aware of any connexion between the brewer and the procuring of the licence.

4416. You say it was the fifth year after he had applied that he got the licence?—The fourth year.

4417. Do you know enough of the trade to be aware that a man cannot live by selling genuine beer with such terms as those?—I am perfectly satisfied of it.

4418. Are you led to suppose that such terms prevail generally, or that that is the general system?—I know it is a very general system.

4419. Mr. *Barrow.*] In the case you have spoken of, the rent would be raised from 120*l.* by the addition of 150*l.*, the interest of 3,000*l.* at five per cent.?—Exactly so.

4420. In fact, it was a premium of 170*l.* for obtaining the licence?—Yes.

4421. *Chairman.*] Are there many other houses in the neighbourhood?—There are 11 houses within a radius of 300 yards.

4422. Is this in the county of Middlesex?—Yes, in Duncan-street, Islington.

4423. How long is it since that licence was obtained?—About two months ago.

4424. Is the man doing a good business?—He says he is not doing a good business.

4425. Mr. *Brown.*] Did he appeal against the decision of the magistrates to any other court?—Yes.

4426. Mr. *Barrow.*] The original licence met with a refusal, and he appealed to the quarter sessions?—Yes.

4427. *Chairman.*] You are aware that all publicans are not as dependent as this man is?—There are three classes of publicans; those who are perfectly independent of the brewer; those who are half-and-half independent; and those who are totally dependent, such as the man I have mentioned.

4428. Which is the class that the brewers prefer?—The totally dependent, I should think.

4429. I presume most of the brewers' houses are quite dependent?—Many are; the middle class of publicans (rather a numerous class) are those who have a sum of money sufficiently worth while to place in the brewer's hands, but not enough to pay for the whole price of the house, a price that is entirely fictitious.

4430. What do you mean by saying that the price of the house is fictitious?—When

When a brewer has a new house he looks at the neighbourhood, and he considers whether the neighbourhood is sufficient to support a public-house, and do a good trade; if it is, he says it is worth so much money.

4431. He finds somebody to pay that money?—He very seldom finds anybody to pay ready money; they become liable for the interest upon the sum, but they rarely pay the sum itself.

4432. Is that the sum that represents the good-will?—That is the sum that represents the good-will.

4433. Do you connect the brewers with the monopoly which exists in the system of licensing?—I think it is the very foundation of all the evil of licensing.

4434. Do you connect this high price which is given for the good-will with the system of licensing?—Certainly; it is entirely produced by the system of licensing.

4435. Do you think it would be the case, if any man could get a licence from an independent authority?—No; it would be entirely done away with.

4436. Mr. *Barrow.*] Am I to understand you to say, that man you referred to paid 100 *l.* rent upon lease with the power of selling beer, and then he was to pay an additional 20 *l.* a year if he obtained the power of selling spirits; and also to pay 3,000 *l.*, or five per cent. interest, in addition?—Exactly.

4437. For the difference of selling beer alone and beer and spirits together?—Yes.

4438. Mr. *Brown.*] In point of fact, the extra rent is 170 *l.*?—Yes.

4439. Who holds the lease in those cases?—The brewer.

4440. Mr. *Barrow.*] If the man left the house, would he expect to receive the 3,000 *l.* for the good-will?—No; he would not get the 3,000 *l.* for the good-will, because he has not paid it; unless the brewer has been paid, he remains creditor.

4441. I thought you said he was responsible for 3,000 *l.*, and pays interest upon it?—Yes.

4442. If he could not expect to get 3,000 *l.* for the good-will, what would be the inducement to make himself responsible for that sum of money?—He is responsible; for if he left the house, and it only turned out to be worth 2,000 *l* afterwards, he would be that amount in the brewer's debt.

4443. *Chairman.*] That liability would attach to him?—Yes. On the other hand, if the house increased in value to be worth 4,000 *l.*, he would pocket 1,000 *l.* from the new tenant, or from the brewer on account of the new tenant.

4444. In the case of transfer, does the fresh man enter into the same obligation?—Yes.

4445. Have you known cases of that sort in which a man has agreed to pay a particular sum for the right of occupying a brewer's house, and the house has been tranferred to another man, and he has been bound to do the same?—Yes.

4446. And the first man is released?—Yes, when he gets a new man to take his place.

4447. Do the brewers charge the same price to all the publicans?—Precisely the same; the present price is 36*s.* a barrel, with 5 per cent. discount, or 34*s.* 2½ *d.* net.

4448. Have you calculated the difference of value after it has been reduced?—In the case I alluded to, with reference to St. Katharine's docks, the beer is worth just 20*s.* instead of 36*s.*, when it is reduced.

4449. That is beer sold at 1*s.* a gallon?—Yes.

4450. What would be the clear profit upon that?—One hundred gallons of that sort would yield a profit of 3 *l.* 15*s.*; that is, the original 100 gallons of beer being increased to 170.

4451. Have you ever known the brewer interfere on this account?—Never.

4452. Have you made any analysis of samples of gin?—I have.

4453. What have you found upon the experiments you have made?—With respect to gin, as far as it goes, there is simply a reduction of strength and sweetening; there is no fraud in reducing the strength; you may have it of any strength, but it is a fraud upon the part of the licensed victualler to add sugar to sweeten it.

4454. How do you mean that it is a fraud?—The law allows a licensed victualler to have gin at any strength he pleases, but it is a fraud universally practised by the publican to sweeten spirits; it being the particular province of the rectifier, and not of the licensed victualler, to add sugar.

Mr. *J. M'Culloch.*

23 June 1854.

4455. What does that do for the gin?—It gives the gin body. There is no injury except so far as the Revenue is concerned; after reduction it would be remarkably thin without sugar. The Exchequer suffers most in this case.

4456. Mr. *Gregson.*] What is it reduced with?—Water reduces the strength, and they add sugar independently of the water to thicken and increase the bulk. I analysed a sample last Monday, which was 46 per cent under proof; that is to say, every 100 gallons contained 54 gallons of proof spirit and 75 lbs. of sugar.

4457. *Chairman.*] Is it not said that the consumers prefer to have the gin sweetened?—Yes; the rectifiers used to sweeten it; for if the publican was to receive it sweetened, unless he was "armed with the proper instruments," he could not ascertain the strength; indeed, the proper instruments for ascertaining the strength of plain spirits will not act when the spirits have been sweetened; they give a false indication; there are, nevertheless, certain and correct methods by which the strength of sweetened spirits may be ascertained.

4458. Do you believe that the consumers of gin would prefer to have it pure, and as strong as it might be?—They prefer it strong, but not without sugar; it is nevertheless the rectifier's business to put the sugar, and not the publican's.

4459. You have had some experience of the working of the licensing system, having acted so long under the Excise?—I was compelled to carry it out when I was acting under the Excise.

4460. Did you direct informations to be laid against publicans?—I never laid any information against publicans; as far as the licensing system is concerned, the Excise have nothing to do with it; the Excise have no power one way or the other with the publicans or beersellers.

4461. They grant a spirit licence upon receiving the magistrates' certificate?—They dare not refuse; if a man goes armed with a magistrates' certificate, the Excise must take his money, and grant him a licence; the licence is merely a receipt for the money, and a recognition that the subject has been sanctioned by the magistrates.

4462. Do you think the licensing system works well for the revenue?—I do not know one man in the Excise, from the highest to the lowest, but condemns it; I think it is perfectly useless as far as any good to the community is concerned, and is connected with a great deal of mischief.

4463. Will you explain what are your views upon the subject, as derived from having been connected with the Excise?—They look at the favouritism and influence of the brewers and distillers as so great, as to get the magistrates to take their view of matters; that is the light in which the authorities view it, and that is the view of the Excise generally.

4464. People connected with the revenue do not attach any importance to the magistrates having the discretion of selecting the persons who shall have licences?—They do not think much about it; they think there is more favouritism and prejudice than anything else.

4465. Do you think the revenue is as much defrauded by the persons whom the magistrates have licensed as by other persons?—Quite; the cases against publicans of fraud, as compared to the cases against beershop keepers, are 17 to one.

4466. You are speaking of revenue cases?—Yes; against licensed victuallers as compared with beershops, the proportion is 17 to one.

4467. That is likely to be, from the nature of the business, is it not?—Quite likely; but the Excise do not give credit to the magistrates for any particular selection of those they grant licences to.

4468. You have heard, I suppose, complaints of the system under which people get licences without the authority of the magistrates, such as beersellers?—They can only procure licences if they get a certificate signed by six householders rated to 10*l.* value; and they are more likely, I think, to be respectable men than the licensed victuallers, who require no certificate.

4469. You attach so little importance to the discretion of the magistrates, as not to think anything of their certificate?—I do not think that the present state of affairs prove the exercise of their discretionary power to be of the slightest use.

4470. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is any inquiry made by the Excise as to the persons who apply for beer licences?—The officer has to go to the parish surveyor, or the clerk of the parish, to know whether the rating of the six persons is correct; and if it is correct, the officer has nothing more to say.

4471. Mr. *Barrow.*] The Excise make no inquiries whatever into the character of the applicants for beer licences, and whether the magistrates inquire into a publican's character or not you think is immaterial?—The Excise make no inquiries, and the Excise do not think that the magistrates trouble themselves about it.

4472. You do not believe they inquire?—I do not; and I am sure the Commissioners of Excise are of the same opinion.

4473. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say that they are too much guided by persons in the station of brewers and distillers, who induce them to grant licences to the persons they select?—That is my opinion. I know a case at the present time of a party named Clarke, the landlord of the Peacock, at Islington-green, who was offered a house not finished now, within 100 yards of my house: the shutters are not yet painted, and there is no glass in the windows; but the builder said he would guarantee Mr. Clarke a licence for that house whenever he likes, if he takes it.

4474. Is he on the bench?—I do not know.

4475. Do you know what the value of such a guarantee is; is the house going on?—He would forfeit his claim as landlord, and, I presume, subject himself to a prosecution if the agreement was not adhered to.

4476. Lord *D. Stuart.*] Did you say that he had given the guarantee?—He has offered it, if Mr. Clarke would take the house.

4477. *Chairman.*] Has he closed with him?—I believe not.

4478. Mr. *Barron.*] You say there are 17 prosecutions against publicans in proportion to one against beershop-keepers; what is the offence for which the prosecutions of the Excise are usually instituted?—Principally purchasing illicit spirits, such as smuggled whiskey, and adulterating beer.

4479. Mr. *Brown.*] Have not excisemen the same power of entering beer-sellers' premises as they have of entering a public-house, to see if any illicit spirits are sold there?—They have the same power at all times.

4480. Have they the power to enter temperance hotels and coffee-shops at all times?—They can only enter a house that holds a licence except by special warrant.

4481. Mr. *Barrow.*] Will you explain what the nature of the offence is for which so many more prosecutions are brought against publicans than against beersellers?—Adulterating beer and purchasing illicit spirits. They cannot be guilty of many offences. It is generally adulteration and purchasing illicit spirits that renders them liable.

4482. You say that the Excise prosecute publicans in 17 cases to one more than beersellers for those particular offences?—Yes.

4483. *Chairman.*] Can you tell us why the Excise prosecute so few cases for the adulteration of liquors?—There is considerable difficulty in prosecuting for adulteration, because at the present time there is no fixed strength; the brewer may brew the beer as he pleases.

4484. You can get evidence of what strength it is, I presume?—Not sufficient evidence to carry into a court of justice. Unless the brewer could be brought forward to state that it was not his beer, it would be difficult for an excise-officer to prove that it was adulterated, as the brewer is not bound to have his beer of any particular strength.

4485. Still it is evidence according to such analysis as you could present of the beer being diluted?—That is quite sufficient evidence of adulteration.

4486. Mr. *Brown.*] With respect to public-houses selling illicitly-distilled spirits, probably the reason of their having legally-distilled spirits on the premises gives them a better cloak to sell illicitly-distilled spirits than the beer-houses?—They cannot have in their possession illegally-distilled spirits.

4487. Do not you think their having legally-distilled spirits on their premises, is a cloak to enable them to sell illicitly-distilled spirits more easily than a beer-seller who has no licence?—Yes.

4488. Do you think that is the cause of their having been so many prosecutions against them?—There is no doubt of it; there is a great deal of illicitly-distilled spirits now quite as good and as pure as legal spirits.

4489. *Chairman.*] In your former evidence you would make out that a brewer must have greater profits than any other tradesman from the sort of business that he

Mr. *J. M'Culloch.*

23 June 1854.

he carries on, because no other tradesman can get people to enter into an obliation to pay him 3,000 *l.* without having received it?—I know of no class of tradesmen that, in the production of an article, can command greater profits, independent of the enormous gains realized through the partial system of the licensing magistrates.

4490. How has that arisen?—In consequence of the monopoly of public-houses. If every man was allowed to sell spirits, that system would be broken down; if the trade was the same as any other trade, this floating capital, that has no existence but upon paper, would sink altogether.

4491. How would the public benefit; would they get cheaper or better beer, or would the revenue be better?—The revenue would be benefited, and the beer better than it is now, although perhaps not cheaper.

4492. You say they are obliged to sell the beer at a certain price to meet the extortionate demands of the brewers?—I said they were compelled to resort to adulteration to meet the extortionate demands of the brewers.

4493. You think the public would get a pure article?—Yes, they would get it genuine. I should not permit any fiscal restrictions at all beyond compelling every publican to have in his cellar beer containing 10 per cent. of proof spirit, leaving the brewer do as he pleases.

4494. You have no doubt that great facilities might be given by law for detecting adulteration, which do not exist now?—No doubt, if the publican was compelled to have nothing in the shape of porter in his cellar less than 10 per cent. of alcoholic strength, adulteration might at all times be detected.

4495. Mr. *Brown.*] Could you prevent the publicans from selling table-beer, or very weak beer?—Table-beer is generally pale beer; porter is generally the reverse, dark; there might be some distinction made.

4496. Mr. *Gregson.*] You merely speak of porter when you speak of limiting it to 10 per cent?—Yes; the common term in London for porter is "beer."

4497. *Chairman.*] Would it not be sufficient for every purpose, if the brewer was obliged to declare the strength of his beer?—I do not think it would serve any purpose.

4498. If you oblige a party to sell beer of a certain strength, you know what he sells?—If the publican wished to supply private families, it would not be necessary to supply beer containing 10 per cent of proof spirit. When brewers were compelled to declare the strength, they declared anything; they had the declarations ready before the beer was made. If a licensed victualler was compelled to have porter of a certain strength in his cellar, and the Excise were at liberty to visit when they choose, that would put a check to adulteration sooner than anything. If the licensed victualler were an honourable man, he could not have in his possession beer of a less strength than 10 per cent. I would leave the brewer perfectly free.

4499. You could not restrict a man from having beer of a particular strength in his cellar; suppose he had customers who wanted beer of different strengths?—Then the consuming public must submit to be cheated for the benefit of the publican and brewer, for any attempt to prevent adulteration is of no use at all.

4500. Mr. *Barrow.*] You would leave the brewer at liberty to sell to private families any scale of strength, but you would interfere with publicans selling to the public beer of different proportions of strength?—I would.

4501. *Chairman.*] Have you any suggestions to make with respect to any amendment of the licensing system?—I have. My opinion is that all licences should be of the same description, but varying in amount according to the rating of the premises; that authority to trade should be given to the man, and not to the house; and that the party applying for a licence should be required to find two or more householders (not being brewers or distillers) as securities for the proper conduct and management of the business; the amount of security being also according to the rating, and as a whole to be perfectly free from any magisterial interference.

Martis, 27° die Junii, 1854.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. C. P. Villiers.	Mr. Brown.
Mr. Barrow.	Lord Dudley Stuart.
Mr. Lowe.	Mr. Sotheron.
Mr. Gregson.	Mr. Packe.
Lord Ernest Bruce.	

THE RIGHT HON. C. P. VILLIERS, IN THE CHAIR.

William Hawes, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. Hawes, Esq.
27 June 1854.

4502. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are connected with a brewery in London?—I was for some years; I am not now.

4503. You have therefore had frequent opportunities of considering the system of licensing public-houses?—I have.

4504. Are you satisfied with the system as it exists at present?—I am not.

4505. Will you state in what you think it is defective, or what particular evils are connected with it, with respect to the licensed victuallers?—I think the licensing system is defective in the tribunals for granting licences being so various, and there being no fixed principles upon which licences are granted; I believe, also, that there is great partiality in the mode of granting them.

4506. You mean by the variety of tribunals that the magistrates have different views, and do not act upon any fixed rules?—Yes; London is divided into licensing districts, and there are a great many magistrates acting in those districts. There is no definite plan or rule of proceedings laid down; and because a licence is granted upon certain conditions in Clerkenwell, it does not follow that a licence will be granted upon the same conditions in Lambeth.

4507. Have you had opportunities of observing those differences?—Yes, decidedly.

4508. There are a great number of houses belonging to brewers; can you state what the connexion is, generally speaking, between the publicans and the brewers?—I cannot, of course, speak confidently upon that point. My belief is, that there are a large number of houses belonging to brewers, directly or indirectly; a considerable number absolutely belong to them, and another large proportion are mortgaged to them, or they have equitable liens upon them, which is the same thing; so that they are, in fact, under their control.

4509. Do you know the number of licensed victuallers' houses in London?—About 6,000 or 7,000.

4510. Can you state the number of those houses you consider free, and what proportion you consider dependent in the way you have described?—I cannot state the proportion.

4511. I presume a great number are dependent from the various causes you have mentioned?—A very large proportion.

4512. Is there any different rule observed towards the brewers' houses and to others by the magistrates, in granting licences?—I should say that the houses for which applications for licences are made do not, when the application is made, belong to the brewers; they generally come into the hands of the brewers after the licences have been granted.

4513. Has the brewer no interest in the licence being granted?—He assists in obtaining it; and, if the application be successful, the trade is taken to him.

4514. Is not that the result of some previous agreement?—Some previous arrangement, not perhaps an agreement; there is an understanding.

4515. There is an understanding between the publican and the brewer, before the publican applies for a licence?—There is an understanding that, upon certain

W. Hawes, Esq.
27 June 1854.

assistance being given, the parties affording that assistance shall benefit by it by the trade being carried to their firm.

4516. Is that assistance in getting the licence?—Yes; it is an indirect assistance; the assistance of influence.

4517. It is presumed that the brewer has influence with the bench?—Undoubtedly.

4518. You do not refer to any other difficulty beyond that of persuading the bench to grant a licence; is it ever a question of pecuniary assistance?—I believe that money passes between the applicant for the licence and the subalterns of the courts. I do not of course wish for a moment to let it be supposed that I believe the magistrates receive money, but illegitimate expenses are incurred, and I believe those illegitimate expenses are incurred as a means of obtaining the licence.

4519. Do you know that the publicans ever apply to the brewers for that kind of assistance as being necessary in obtaining licences?—I do.

4520. Do you know that very frequently the brewers, or those who act for the brewers, inquire into the way in which the money or pecuniary advance is to be applied?—I think it is so.

4521. But the fact is, that the brewers do occasionally make such advances for the purpose of procuring a licence?—They are not the persons applying for the licence. It is known that the money is to be applied to the expenses connected with obtaining the licence.

4522. Did you ever know of a person who, so applying such money, failed in getting a licence?—Yes, I think so; I have known them fail, and I have known them to succeed.

4523. Where the requisite funds have been provided, have you ever known an applicant fail in getting a licence?—Yes, the first time I think I have.

4524. What are the particular terms which are made by the brewers with a publican who has obtained his licence?—The brewer agrees to lend a certain sum upon the house, in consideration of which the trade is taken to that brewer.

4525. Then the publican in that case is not an independent man, being obliged to borrow money of the brewer?—I think he is not independent; a great many, however, think, because they can transfer that loan from A. to B., they are still independent, but I do not quite agree with them in that view.

4526. What is the purpose of the loan?—Undoubtedly to secure the trade to the brewer.

4527. How is the money to be applied by the publican?—Frequently in enlarging the house, after the licence has been obtained, so as to give greater accommodation, and for the purpose of ornament to make the house more attractive, and things of that kind; sometimes to buy the lease of the house.

4528. How far afterwards is the publican tied down by the brewer?—Because he has borrowed from the brewer a large sum of money, for security for which he has deposited his lease; a sum larger than he could obtain on the lease from any one else.

4529. Is not the publican under an obligation to take no other person's beer?—Yes, to take the beer of that brewer, and no other person; until recently this obligation applied only to porter, it now frequently applies to both ale and porter.

4530. Is the publican generally the owner of the house, or the brewer?—I think neither; the publican is a tenant with a lease, and he deposits that lease as a security for the money advanced.

4531. With the brewer?—Yes.

4532. When the houses are owned by a brewer, he puts in the publicans as his tenants?—He puts in his own men; there is then no lease; it is a tenancy at will,

4533. In those cases the man is only the agent or servant of the brewer?—Very little more.

4534. What kind of supervision takes place in those public-houses connected with brewers, as to the conduct of the houses, and generally the mode in which they carry on their business?—I think there is no distinction, as far as the supervision of the police is concerned, between brewers and free houses.

4535. Do you know whether the brewers take any interest in the good conduct of a house in which the publican is so completely dependent upon them?—I think it is their interest to have as good a tenant as possible in the house to sell the greatest quantity of beer.

4536. A great quantity of beer may be sold, and yet, perhaps, there may be some irregular means resorted to to get large custom?—I think, looking at the respectability

respectability of the large brewers of London, their interest is to obtain the most respectable men, and to have the house well-conducted, but I believe in the low neighbourhoods that it is very difficult to find such men.

4537. Do the brewers take any notice of the process of reducing the strength of the beer?—I presume they take no notice of it; it is not their affair.

4538. Are they not afraid of the reputation of their beer suffering?—The facts show that they are not. It is quite notorious, if you drink beer at the brewery and at a public-house a little way off, you find it a very different commodity.

4539. Is that notorious?—I think it must be within the experience of every one who drinks beer in London.

4540. Very few have the advantage of drinking brewers' beer as it is actually brewed?—Perhaps not.

4541. You have had that advantage, probably, and you say the contrast is striking?—Decidedly.

4542. What the brewer looks for chiefly is a considerable custom for his houses?—The largest demand.

4543. Has that any reference to the transfer of the licence, or the sale of the house afterwards?—No doubt the larger the draught of beer, the higher the premium the brewer gets for the house. It is not only beer, but the sale of beer involves the sale of other things; the premium is estimated upon the gross return; the value of the house depends upon the takings per month, and that consists of beer, wine, and spirits.

4544. Do transfers of public-houses take place frequently?—Very frequently.

4545. In what way do you consider that the premium which is paid for good-will is connected with the licensing system?—Of course, if the licensing system restricts the number of public-houses it increases their value; because the nearer you approach to a monopoly the greater the value of each individual house.

4546. Do you consider that the trade is carried on under a monopoly?—It is not a perfect monopoly, of course, but it is to a very considerable extent.

4547. There are many features of a monopoly in the way in which the trade is carried on?—Yes.

4548. Do you consider that to be traced to the present system of licensing, which restricts the number of houses?—I consider it is to be traced rather to there being no system. It is the want of system. It is capricious and partial; the magistrates have the power of refusing or granting a licence without assigning any reason.

4549. You think the number of houses is actually more limited than it would be if the trade were thrown open?—Undoubtedly, very much more.

4550. You think people are apt to appreciate highly the importance of getting a licence, from the notion that the number is restricted?—I think so, in many cases.

4551. And that is an inducement to give a high sum?—They very often suffer for giving such high sums, as is always the case with monopolies.

4552. That accounts for the frequent transfer, you think?—It is one of the reasons, I have no doubt.

4553. It is no advantage to the trade, so far as its being conducted properly or respectably, that this system should continue?—I believe not; I believe all experience shows us that the further we withdraw from a monopoly the more profitable trade becomes.

4554. What do you think would be the advantage to the community of throwing the trade open; would you expect that the price of beer would fall, and the quality improve?—The beer trade is nearly open now.

4555. Supposing the trade, so far as getting the licence is concerned, were now open so that every person could obtain a licence, under certain conditions. I judge from what you have already said, that that would destroy the monopoly as far as one exists now?—Those conditions, I presume, would be mere conditions of conforming to police regulations.

4556. If it were made certain that everybody complying with those conditions could obtain a licence, what advantage would you expect to derive from that system?—I believe the public would have a better quality of article sold, and greater accommodation of all kinds.

4557. What conditions would you suggest yourself?—I would suggest very stringent conditions to secure the good conduct of a house for the prevention of drunkenness, and the certain punishment of the landlord when drunkenness was proved;

W. Hawes, Esq.

27 June 1854.

proved; in fact, purely police regulations, simple in their character, but to be rigidly enforced.

4558. Do you think the good conduct of the public-houses could be secured by the vigilance of the police after the licences were obtained?—I believe so. It is clear that the present system does not preserve good order or prevent drunkenness, and does not prevent a great deal of abuse of public-houses.

4559. You think the present system does nothing to protect the community against the evils likely to arise from public-houses?—To a very small extent.

4560. Your own experience leads you to conclude that it would be a better system that the trade should be open?—I believe it would be better open, subject to police regulations of a very stringent character, so that any person could obtain a licence upon complying with certain conditions, such as the house being rented at a certain sum, and sufficient evidence of character being given, with bondsmen as security for the fulfilment of these conditions.

4561. Would you leave it to the magistrates to decide whether those conditions were complied with, or would you create some new tribunal for that purpose?—I would put it under the Board of Inland Revenue and the police. In fact I would have a mixed board.

4562. You would relieve the magistrates altogether of their present duty with respect to licensing?—I would; that is, from the duty of examining into the claims of applicants for licences.

4563. You would not be afraid of there being too many houses immediately started, or that spirit-houses would be multiplied indefinitely in the town at first?—At first, of course, when you open a trade, you always create a little excess, but that would soon be regulated by the necessities of the public and the profits to be derived from the trade.

4564. Do the beerhouses belong to brewers?—Not many of them, I think.

4565. What would be the effect upon the beerhouses generally if you threw the trade open; if licences only were granted to persons for carrying on the whole business of a publican?—A great many beerhouses would get licences, and become licensed houses.

4566. Do you think a great number of beerhouse-keepers would be able to find the capital requisite for carrying on the business of publicans, or what are called licensed victuallers?—I do; a very considerable number.

4567. Is there not a great difference in the stock required?—Yes; that is generally found by the money lent by the brewers.

4568. Do you consider that the Beer Act has failed in respect of securing to the public a better article at a cheaper price?—Certainly not; it has not failed.

4569. I think you have just stated that the beer is generally adulterated in licensed victuallers' houses; is it not so in the beerhouses?—Nearly the same; but there is this distinction, which I think it is necessary to state: publicans sell a great deal more porter or black beer, and the beershops sell more ale. It is much more easy to adulterate porter than ale. I do not like to use the word "adulterate;" adulteration implies that something unwholesome or noxious is mixed with the beer; that is not the case; you have undoubtedly a different commodity, but I question whether you have a more unwholesome commodity.

4570. The public have not the commodity which they think they pay for?—I think they have; if the public will only pay for a cheap article, they cannot expect to have one of higher value.

4571. The public do not ask for porter and water?—They ask for a beverage that they like; and at a great many public-houses, if the beer were to be sold exactly as it comes from the brewery, it would not be so well liked as the article which is at present sold.

4572. But after this dilution, does it not become weaker?—No; I believe no such thing occurs. It is not beer and water. After all, what is beer but a fermentation of sugar? It is the fermentation of the saccharine principle in the malt, and more sugar is added. The brewer could not leave that quantity in his beer, as, if he did, it would not keep through the summer.

4573. How does the publican manage it?—It is added as he requires it, cask by cask; otherwise the beer would not keep.

4574. He expects to benefit himself by the mixture?—The public are also benefited, because he sells it cheaper.

4575. Is

4575. Is sugar added to the beer to give it colour?—To give it taste and flavour.

4576. And water to give it bulk?—Yes.

4577. Mr. *Lowe.*] Does not the addition of sugar keep up the freshness of the beer?—I do not know that it gives freshness; it gives specific gravity and sweetness.

4578. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is there not another mixture called amber?—There is.

4579. Is much of that used?—I do not know either the extent, or how often it is used.

4580. *Chairman.*] Do the brewers attach much importance to the present system of licensing; is it a part of their calculation in the investment of their capital, or otherwise?—I think they attach importance to it, because a large investment of capital has grown up under it which would be materially affected if the licensing system were suddenly altered. My impression is, that they attach more importance to that circumstance than to the principle which is involved in the system itself.

4581. You think the capital which is invested in the present system would induce them to object to a change?—Yes.

4582. Were not the brewers much alarmed when the Beer Act came into operation?—Yes, they were; and the value of their property for a time was reduced; that is to say, the public-houses did not sell for the same premium immediately after that change as they did before. I believe that, since, the value has gone up again.

4583. Mr. *Lowe.*] You mean by property, the public-houses of which they were the proprietors?—Yes, or had made advances upon.

4584. You do not mean the brewery establishments themselves?—No.

4585. *Chairman.*] If the beershops led to more beer being sold, I take it for granted that the brewers were indemnified in another way?—Yes, I believe they were. I have said I thought it was a mistaken view.

4586. Would not that apply to this case, supposing that licences were freely granted, more beer perhaps would be drunk?—No; because the beer trade is free now, comparatively; the extension of licensed public-houses would more affect the wine and spirit trade than the beer trade.

4587. Do you know of any advantage there is in distinguishing the licences for beer alone from the licences for beer, spirits, and wine; in fact, the classification which now exists with respect to licences?—I can conceive no advantage. I think it would be much better if the whole were granted by one Board, instead of the magistrates granting one licence and the Excise granting another.

4588. Would you have only one licence granted to a publican, and that licence should enable him to sell any liquor?—The licence, of course, would cover either beer or wine or spirits. You might have separate licences, but I cannot conceive why you should have separate licences.

4589. I suppose that if a man is confined to one branch of a business, it enables persons of smaller capital to go into that business?—Unless he had capital to sell everything, he would only sell such part as he had capital for.

4590. Mr. *Barrow.*] Would you recommend that the publican should pay 10 *l.* for a licence, when he meant only to sell one thing?—I think 10 *l.* is an immaterial amount compared with the amount of business.

4591. *Chairman.*] Do you see any objection to granting the licence to the person, and not to the house?—I should say not; but I should like to answer that question with some reserve, because it is a point I have hardly thought of at present. The beerhouse-keeper is licensed; it is the man and not the house. A. B. takes out a licence to sell beer in such a house.

4592. Mr. *Barrow.*] Is not that the case with a spirit licence as well as a beer licence?—I believe it is; but the general impression is, that a spirit licence attaches itself to the house; for in cases of misconduct the licence is very rarely taken from the house, but the man is quietly allowed to transfer it. The withdrawal of the licence from the house as well as from the man, when misconduct has been proved, would soon reduce the artificial value of public-houses, and do more than anything else to ensure their good management.

4593. *Chairman.*] Would there not be more fear of losing the licence if it was granted to the person; would he not be more careful in the way in which he conducted his business?—It is granted to him now.

W. Hawes, Esq.

27 June 1854.

4594. It seems to be granted now to people who have no property or capital of their own?—That again is the fault of the magistrates, and the fault of the system.

4595. Do you think the brewers or other persons who put people into public-houses, or their servants, would be as little careful of the character of the persons if they had to pay a large duty for a licence, and those men might lose their licences by ill-conduct?—It would make them more careful, if the price of the licence was very high.

4596. Do you think it would be any security for the greater respectability, if the licence was higher than it is now?—I think not; I think you could not put it so high as to make it a test of respectability; whether it was 2*l.* or 10*l.*, or 20*l.*, I do not think it would give any security, the property at stake in the house is so far beyond it.

4597. Mr. *Lowe.*] Would not the effect of a high price for a licence be, that it would oblige the man to get into debt?—The 10*l.* or the 20*l.* paid for a licence could really have no weight either one way or the other.

4598. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that the fear of losing the licence is the best check upon the publican?—I think that it is a good check.

4599. What would you suggest then as the mode of improving the conduct of these houses; that a publican should be liable to lose his licence, if he broke the law, or would you make it necessary that he should lose it upon being convicted of a certain number of offences, or a certain number of times?—A certain number of reports against a house by the police, or a certain but a smaller number of offences proved in Court, should necessitate the loss of the licence.

4600. You would not leave it discretionary with anybody to decide when a licence should be forfeited?—Not any more than I would leave a discretion as to the punishment of any other offence.

4601. Do you believe that the mode of getting evidence against publicans is now satisfactory, leaving it to the police to inform against them, when they happen to know of their offending?—Looking at the result, it is impossible to say that it is sufficient, otherwise drunkenness and bad conduct in many public-houses in low neighbourhoods would be much more easily stopped than it is.

4602. What would you suggest as a remedy?—Merely greater vigilance in inspection, and a greater certainty of punishment.

4603. Would you have constables specially appointed for the purpose of inspecting public-houses?—I think not; I think it ought to be as much the general duty of the police, as well as any other portion of their duty.

4604. Do not you conceive the police are exposed to considerable temptation?—No doubt.

4605. A publican is liable to a considerable fine, and he may be tempted to offer a bribe to a policeman?—Everybody who commits an offence against the laws would willingly pay to keep out of the hands of the police.

4606. You do not think it is necessary to have special constables or special inspectors appointed for this purpose?—I think not.

4607. Mr. *Brown.*] Do not you think it would be better for the public good, that a higher sum should be charged for the licence, to give that money to the State, rather than that the individual who gets the licence should be able to sell it at a premium?—It is not the licence that is sold at a premium, it is the trade of the house that is sold at a premium; the State has no right to a benefit from that.

4608. Are you not aware that licences are obtained for houses in which there has never been a drop of spirits sold?—Undoubtedly it must be so.

4609. Is it not the case that the moment a licence is obtained it is sold at a great premium?—Undoubtedly.

4610. It is not the goodwill of the house, but the mere circumstance of an individual being fortunate enough to get a licence?—There is a goodwill created the moment the licence is granted, because it is a partial monopoly.

4611. Would it not be better that the money paid for that licence should be a larger sum, and go into the public purse, rather than create a goodwill of that kind for the benefit of an individual?—I would rather you would extend the number of licences, and destroy the system in that way, than put a high price upon the licence to make it a source of taxation, and thereby increase the monopoly.

4612. Mr. *Lowe.*] Are the ordinary licensed victuallers men of capital?—A great many are so undoubtedly, and very respectable men indeed.

4613. Do you consider that keeping a public-house is a lucrative business?—A well-conducted public-house I believe to be a lucrative business.

4614. Notwithstanding

4614. Notwithstanding the arrangements which the brewers make, they leave the publicans a large margin of profit?—Notwithstanding those arrangements, I believe a well-conducted public-house is a lucrative business.

4615. Is it not the fact that the brewers sell beer to their tenants at the same price as that at which their tenants nominally retail the beer?—No, I think not.

4616. What does the publican give for his beer?—Thirty-three shillings per barrel, subject to a discount.

4617. At what does he nominally sell the beer?—Before the recent alteration 3*d.* per pot was almost the lowest price; a large portion was sold at 3½*d.*

4618. Therefore he is allowed about 3*s.* profit upon the barrel?—With a discount of 5 per cent.

4619. Would not that be a meagre profit if he did not do something like dashing it?—Beer is only one of the many articles that are sold by the publican; but if a large quantity of beer be drawn, even that would be a profit.

4620. Mr. *Gregson.*] What are the other articles?—Wine and spirits, and there is a much larger profit upon them than there is upon beer.

4621. Mr. *Lowe.*] I understood you to recommend, as a matter of revenue, that licences should be granted to any person under strict police regulations, with no investigation as to character?—I mentioned, I believe, that investigation into character was desirable, as well as their being subject to police regulations.

4622. Who would you entrust with that investigation as to character?—The Board of Inland Revenue and the police combined, acting together, as in the case of the beershops now.

4623. Would not the police be very liable to corruption, if the magistrates are not free from suspicion of impartiality?—The position of the two are so very distinct; the Police Commissioners and the Board of Inland Revenue are well known public officers acting under public responsibility; the magistrates also are public officers to a certain extent, but acting under very little if any sense of public responsibility.

4624. I understood you to say also, that you would abolish beerhouses as they are at present constituted?—I have said nothing of the kind; I said the trade might be under one licence, so that a man might sell either beer alone or beer and spirits together.

4625. That, in fact, would be abolishing houses for the sale of beer only?—I do not wish to abolish beerhouses, but I see no good in having two or three kinds of licences; you might have a licence, the payment being determined according to what the man proposed to sell.

4626. Would you have any regulation as to the kind of house to be licensed; would you trust to free trade, or would you require the publican to have a suitable house, subject to police regulations, and refuse the licence unless the man had a certain description of house?—I stated, in reply to the Chairman, that the rating would be one of the qualifications required under police regulations.

4627. A house may be rated at a good sum and yet not laid out for the accommodation of the public?—Then the public would not go to it.

4628. You think the licensed victuallers would have sufficient interest to provide proper accommodation for the public?—I think so, when you look at the handsome buildings that are erected, and the handsome manner in which they are fitted up.

4629. You think the present plan, which requires a house to be investigated by certain persons, is an unnecessary matter?—Yes.

4630. Mr. *Barrow.*] I understood you to say, that adopting free trade at once would produce at first a considerable number of these houses, which would create excess?—I think that is the general result of relaxing a restrictive law.

4631. Would you attach any importance to the fact which has been given in evidence, that the increase in beershops and public-houses in any particular locality, increases temptation and increases drunkenness?—I should attach importance to it, certainly.

4632. I understood you to admit that the public would suffer, as far as the increase of drunkenness might go, by the unlimited increase of places for the sale of liquor?—There would not necessarily be an increase of drunkenness; I said you might have an excess created in that particular branch if you suddenly withdrew the restrictions.

4633. Do you attach importance to the evidence, that an increase in public-houses is followed by an increase of temptation and an increase of drunkenness?—Yes;

W. Hawes, Esq.
27 June 1854.

—Yes; I should attach importance to it, but it does not follow that I should agree with it.

4634. To that extent the public would suffer from an increase of public-houses?—Assuming that drunkenness was increased thereby, the public would suffer.

4635. I understood you just now to state, that you did attach importance to the evidence that an increase of public-houses was an increase of temptation, and an increase of drunkenness?—I attach importance to it, but it does not follow that I agree with it. I believe that an increase of public-houses under proper supervision, assuming the police laws to be rigidly enforced against the publican, would not materially increase drunkenness.

4636. I understood you also to state that you apprehended there was some partiality occasionally in the granting of licences; you are not aware whether any distinction is made by the magistrates in the supervision of the houses after once they are licensed?—I think not.

4637. That there is no distinction and no partiality in the supervision?—I think not; it has not come under my knowledge.

4638. Mr. *Brown.*] It is not easy for the magistrates or the Board of Excise to ascertain exactly the character and respectability of the individual who asks for a licence; what effect do you think it would have if two bondsmen were required to a moderate amount for the good conduct of that individual; would not those two bondsmen be much more likely to inquire into the character of the party for whom they consented to become bondsmen than either the magistrates or the Excise would have the power of doing?—If it was known that the bonds would be enforced in case of irregularity, it would.

4639. If it were made imperative upon the Board of Inland Revenue to enforce those bonds whenever the licence was withdrawn by the magistrates, do not you think it would have a great effect?—I think it would have a great effect.

4640. *Chairman.*] I think you are of opinion that people over-rate the profits of a publican's trade, and that is owing to the monopoly which at present exists?—I think a great many persons when taking public-houses over-rate the profits.

4641. Are there not a vast number of applications upon each occasion of the magistrates licensing, which are refused?—Yes; but you must keep clearly in your mind the distinction between the application for new licences by regular publicans, and the applications made by other parties. I believe the majority of applications for new licences are made by the builders of the houses or their friends; they sell the licences, and get the premium; it is part of the speculation in building houses.

4642. Will you describe that process, because the builder is not the natural person to apply for a licence?—Nor does he apply for the licence; he puts in somebody to do so.

4643. The first speculation is in building?—Yes; when a certain number of houses are built, a public-house is a certain speculation.

4644. The builder get somebody to occupy the house?—Yes; he gets somebody to apply for a licence.

4645. Perhaps the builder has a friend on the bench?—He may or not.

4646. However, the builder gets the licence?—Yes.

4647. As soon as he has got the licence, it is worth something to sell?—He gets a higher rent for his house, or a premium. You will find in every plan for covering a piece of ground, the corner houses here and there are planned for public-houses, and the builder relies on the interest he can exercise, directly and indirectly, to have those houses licensed.

4648. Mr. *Barrow.*] With respect to granting licences by the magistrates, you state that the magistrates are in the habit of refusing licences without assigning any reason; is not there an appeal from magistrates at petty sessions to quarter sessions, and upon the hearing of that appeal, the question is argued publicly, and that argument proceeeds entirely upon the necessities of the locality?—Undoubtedly.

4649. Therefore any decision of the magistrates in open court is subject to the operation of public opinion?—In cases of appeal; but the number of appeals is small.

4650. You further propose to substitute for the magistrates a board composed of the police and the Excise; I apprehend you are not aware of the operation of the

system in the country, that that board could only exist in London where there are Commissioners of Police?—I am speaking with reference to London.

4651. *Chairman.*] As far as London goes, there would be no difficulty in constituting a board of that kind, and you believe it would give more satisfaction than the present system?—Yes; at present the Inland Board of Revenue grant the beershop licences, the number of which is three-fourths that of the public-houses; I think there are 3,000 or 4,000 beerhouses to 6,000 or 7,000 public-houses.

4652. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you think if the trade were thrown open, as you recommend, it would materially interfere with the capital at present invested?—I think it would; therefore the change would require very great caution.

4653. You would recommend great caution to be used in changing the system?—Yes; there is no necessity to injure the interest which has risen up under the present state of the law.

4654. *Chairman.*] I suppose those applicants, who are refused in such large numbers, all consider themselves aggrieved under the present law?—No doubt; but it does not follow that they are all aggrieved.

4655. Mr. *Brown.*] Is not entering into the speculation of buying houses, for the purpose of getting a higher rent, subject to the same contingencies to which every merchant who enters into a speculation is subject?—Yes.

4656. Why should he be exempted from those contingencies, when other parties are not?—There is no reason.

4657. *Chairman.*] Have you considered any mode in which you could change the system without inflicting an injury on some one?—There must be a certain amount of injury, however gradually you make the change.

4658. Does the view which you take of the injury done apply to closing the public-houses on Sunday?—I think not.

4659. Have you considered that matter, which excites a great deal of interest at the present time?—I have.

4660. You do not consider the closing of the public-houses on Sunday would be very injurious to the publicans?—To the respectable publican, certainly not; at least, that is my strong opinion.

4661. He would lose so much custom; I suppose the custom on Sunday is very considerable?—The expenses of keeping open on Sunday afternoon are very considerable likewise. He would lose a certain amount of one class of custom; but I question whether, taking the balance of the two, he would materially lose or be injured.

4662. Would not the low and less reputable kind of houses suffer?—They would suffer most; and of course, publicly speaking, it would be desirable that they should suffer.

4663. I presume the brewers would object to it on the ground of interest?—I cannot think they would; I think that it would not affect them sufficiently.

4664. Do you think closing the public-houses on Sunday would be attended with any great moral advantage to the public?—I believe that if you were to close the public-houses at some earlier hour on Sunday evening than at present, it it would be a great moral advantage; we know the great good which has resulted from closing the public-houses on Sunday morning, and I believe closing them after five or six on Sunday afternoon would be attended with great public advantages.

4665. Did not you promote the closing the public-houses on part of Sunday?—My brother introduced the bill, and carried it.

4666. You consider that that law has not been so far evaded as to prevent a great advantage having arisen from closing the public-houses on the early part of Sunday?—The law is no doubt evaded, but not sufficiently to destroy the advantages, or anything like it; I think everybody who has been in anyway connected with working men for the last 20 years must acknowledge the good it has done.

4667. From knowing what their condition was formerly?—Yes.

4668. How many years has the Act been in operation?—Ten or 12 years.

4669. What hours would you close the public-houses on Sunday evening?—I would open them for a couple of hours after the afternoon service.

4670. From five to seven?—Something of that kind.

4671. And then you would close them for the rest of the evening?—Yes.

4672. Mr. *Lowe.*] Would you open them before five o'clock?—In the first place, they are open from one to three.

4673. Mr. *Barrow.*] Would you continue opening them from one to three?—Yes.

W. Hawes, Esq.

27 June 1854.

4674. Mr. *Lowe.*] You would shut them from three to five?—Yes; and then open them from five to seven.

4675. *Chairman.*] You believe that a great deal of drunkenness takes place after that hour, at present?—A great deal, I believe.

4676. Have you made some inquiries upon that subject?—I have.

4677. Different opinions have been expressed as to the time when drunkenness takes place; some people think that drunkenness is not so great in the evening as in the morning?—Drunkenness commences in the morning, and is continued in the evening; it takes some time to get drunk; the question is, when you begin and when you leave off.

4678. Have you any reason to believe that drunkenness does commence in the morning, notwithstanding that the public-houses are shut?—That involves the question as to the amount of evasion of the present law. The law is evaded to a certain extent, there is no doubt; a man who is an habitual drunkard will get drink by some means or other in a low neighbourhood.

4679. Do you attach great importance to withholding the temptation which is presented by public-houses being open on Sunday?—Undoubtedly; if the public-houses were closed by seven o'clock, a great deal of incipient drunkenness would never arrive at the stage of drunkenness.

4680. Are you in favour of opening places of amusement and recreation to which the people might resort, if the public-houses were not open on Sunday?—Unfortunately we have no such places in London at the present time. The great want of the present day is some place of recreation and amusement for the poor; if you shut up the public-houses on Sunday, or nearly so, you ought, I think, as a duty, to find them some other places at which to spend their time advantageously.

4681-2. You think that would be necessary, if you did not open the public houses?—Yes; and it is an opinion which I entertain strongly.

4683. You think parks and gardens ought to be opened on Sundays, if public-houses are closed?—The use of parks is almost confined to the summer; a park is not a very available place for winter amusement, when it is dark at four o'clock.

4684. Would you open the British Museum?—Yes; and the National Gallery.

4685. Would you object to the Crystal Palace being open on Sunday?—I should not.

4686. Mr. *Brown.*] Would you open zoological and botanical gardens on Sunday?—Yes. At present they are open to the wealthy, but not to the poor.

4687. Would you open free libraries?—Undoubtedly.

4688. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is not Hampton Court open to the poor on Sunday?—Yes, and so are Kew Gardens; but they are a considerable distance from London.

4689. *Chairman.*] If those places are not open and the public-houses are closed on Sunday, do not you think the law would be evaded?—It would be evaded in this way, that spirits would be bought on Saturday and drunk at home, instead of being drunk at the public-house. I think it is impossible for men who are actively engaged all the week, to sit at home idle from four o'clock in the afternoon till bedtime; if you do not give them good occupation, the tendency will be to have recourse to that which may be injurious.

4690. Mr. *Brown.*] I think you appear to be of opinion that if we had places of rational recreation and amusement open for the people on Sunday evening, they would be the means of weaning some of them from the public-houses?—I believe they would. I believe there is a vast number of the wives of respectable working men who would be delighted to have some place to which the whole family could go and spend rationally the Sunday afternoon or evening.

4691. Mr. *Gregson.*] Is there not a park at the east end of London?—The Victoria Park; but that would be rather a dismal place in winter.

4692. What is the extent of Victoria Park?—I do not know the precise extent, but it is very considerable.

4693. *Chairman.*] What is the general feeling, as far as you know, with respect to opening such places as have been referred to; do you think the middle class, the tradesmen and shopkeepers, are much opposed to it?—I do not know. I cannot answer that question; I could only give my own impression.

4694. You have no doubt there is a strong feeling against it?—There is a strong feeling against, and an equally strong feeling in favour of it.

4695. Do you know the opinion of the working people themselves; do they desire to have such places open on Sunday?—I cannot believe that working

people

people have arrived at a definite idea as to whether this place or that place should be opened; I think the want felt by the working class is of some place of amusement; I do not believe that they have any definite opinion whether it should be the National Gallery or the British Museum.

4696. It is stated that the people who go to these gardens, and are often seen on steamboats, are a class above working people?—The majority no doubt are. The working man's means restrict him from making the same use of those means of recreation as the class immediately above him. You must bring places of recreation to the working man if they are to be of any avail.

4697. Is it your opinion that working men remain in London to frequent the public-houses?—Working men undoubtedly form the majority of the parties who frequent the public-houses on Sunday.

4698. Mr. *Packe.*] Would not the money which is now spent at the public-house, be available for innocent steam-boat excursions and other purposes?—Yes, or for any public place of amusement. Not only so, but the money spent in the public-house is spent upon one member of the family; whereas, if it were spent in an excursion, in going to a place like the British Museum or to the Crystal Palace, it would benefit the whole family.

4699. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you happen to know that, when monster excursion trains are projected in the manufacturing and other towns, preparatory to the departure of those trains there is generally less drunkenness in the public-houses, because the money is saved for the purpose?—I have no knowledge upon that subject.

4700. *Chairman.*] You believe that the working-people are very much improved of late years?—No one who has been mixed up with working men, or had to superintend working men in London for the last 25 years, but must be aware of it. I will illustrate it in this way. If there were 100 men at any manufactory 20 years ago, 30 or 40 would be absent on Monday; but in no well-conducted manufactory is that the case now. If they are out, they are away taking pleasure; and not from drunkenness, which was formerly the ordinary cause of absence. A great many men are away on Monday for perfectly good and proper purposes; but 20 or 25 years ago it was common, out of 100 men, to have many away drunk and unfit to work.

4701. Still they make Monday a holiday now?—Yes, but it is a legitimate holiday. It was a holiday then of a depraving, bad character, now it is a holiday spent with their families, and benefiting both their health and minds.

4702. You think drunkenness has diminished?—I think so, amongst the working men in London, to a great extent.

4703. To what do you refer that diminution in drunkenness?—I refer it generally to the improved character of working men, which has been promoted by shutting up the public-houses on Sunday morning.

4704. You consider that has really had an important influence in diminishing drunkenness in London?—I am certain of it. A working man, accustomed to get up at five o'clock in the morning, perhaps, got up at the same time on Sunday morning when public-houses were open, and he then took his first glass of spirits or beer; and the excitement, once begun, continued through the day. I believe a vast number of working people begin to drink, and are insensibly led on to drunkenness, merely from having nothing to do, and wanting occupation.

4705. I presume that happens particularly on Sunday, because it is a day of leisure?—Yes.

4706. Would that lead you to close public-houses entirely on Sunday?—No. I do not know, that because there is a partial closing which has been beneficial, that therefore you are to prevent a man getting anything to drink the whole of the day. If you keep him away from the public-house till the middle of the day, he is then washed, shaved, and dressed; he is no longer under the same influences; the public-house has less attraction, and the character of his day's occupation is altogether changed.

4707. That, in your opinion, shows the importance of closing the public-houses on Sunday morning?—Yes.

4708. Are you not afraid of the inconvenience of closing public-houses to travellers, and people making excursions?—The same rule could not be applied to inns in the neighbourhood of large towns, and in the vicinity of railways, which you would apply to a public-house in a large town; it is clear there must be some difference.

W. Hawes, Esq.

27 June 1854.

4709. How could you distinguish between them?—It appears to me that the public-houses may be under a different regulation to the road-side inns and hotels; one is a victualling-house, and more a house of refreshment than the others.

4710. May not any man on a Sunday morning cause a public-house to be opened, if he alleges that he is a traveller?—I believe that is so.

4711. Would you leave that exception still existing, if you were to close the public-houses in the afternoon?—I presume so.

4712. You would allow people who arrived by railway to go to a public-house?—Yes, undoubtedly.

4713. Would you deprive the inmates of hotels of the liberty of having liquors on Sunday afternoons or evenings?—No; the inmate of an hotel is under perfectly different circumstances to a person residing in the neighbourhood of a public-house, and going to a public-house for beer or spirits.

4714. You think that those particular cases would not offer any insuperable difficulty to the change which you propose?—I think they offer a considerable difficulty, but not an insuperable difficulty.

4715. You have referred to your knowledge of the opinions of working people; do you think they would receive such an amendment of the law as you have suggested as a grievance to themselves?—No; I believe the great mass of the working people would strongly approve of it. I think you may judge somewhat of that by the manner in which they have taken advantage of the baths and washhouses; the number of working men resorting to them on Sunday morning is increasing steadily every year.

4716. How long are they open on Sunday?—For three hours on Sunday morning. The number of working men frequenting them is very large, as many as 400 or 500 at the largest establishments; I think the two habits are inconsistent with each other, namely, going to the public-house and going to the baths. I can speak from my own knowledge on that subject.

4717. You would see no difficulty in legislating this very Session with respect to closing the public-houses on Sunday?—I should not say so. By Sunday closing, I do not mean entire closing on Sunday, but closing at certain hours on Sunday afternoon, retaining the morning opening for selling beer; then closing for the afternoon service and opening for a short time in the afternoon.

4718. Mr. *Brown.*] Can you suggest any mode of getting rid of the temptation which is thrown in the way of the working classes by means of the gin palaces?—I think there is no possible means of getting rid that temptation; it is a necessary evil.

4719. Mr. *Lowe.*] At what hour would you close public-houses on Saturday night?—At a fixed hour; say at 10 or 11 o'clock.

4720. Would you recognise the principle of closing earlier on Saturday night than on other nights in the week?—No; I would close them every night earlier than they are closed now.

4721. Mr. *Gregson.*] Would you close them every night at 11?—Yes the same time as the beer-shops.

4722. *Chairman.*] Do you think it would be attended with any inconvenience to this town, looking at the habits of the people of London?—Power must be given temporarily, at any rate, for exceptions; for instance, a house in the neighbourhood of a large manufactory, where the men are obliged to work all night; it is difficult to say that inconvenience at first would not arise from closing at 11 o'clock, and not opening again till five in the morning. There must be some short time allowed for men under such circumstances to make new arrangements. In a short time, they would provide against the inconvenience.

4723. Mr. *Gregson.*] We are told that the greatest excess takes place on Saturday night, when the wages are received?—A very large portion of wages are now paid on Friday, amongst the respectable establishments. Here, again, I can speak from my own experience; paying on Friday does not increase drunkenness on Saturday, and does not prevent the men coming to work on Saturday.

4724. Do not you think it prevents drunkenness, from the men being obliged to come to work on Saturday?—I believe it has tended to improve the condition of the whole body of working men, and is very popular with their wives.

4725. *Chairman.*] Do you ascribe any importance to the effects of the teetotal movement upon the working classes; do you think that many take the pledge, or abstain altogether?—I think a good many do take the pledge, whether they abstain

abstain altogether or not. I think in many cases it has produced a great benefit; I know cases in which it has done so.

4726. Has it gained ground, or lost ground of late?—I think it has not gained ground.

4727. You do not attribute the improvement which you have observed amongst working people to that cause, so much as to others?—It has had some effect, no doubt.

4728. Do you think education has done anything, and greater general intelligence?—The improved condition of the working-man has been brought about by a great number of causes combined; the average rate of wages is higher, and work is more regular, which have contributed to the improvement of the working-class. They have very much steadier employment than when I knew them 20 years ago, and undoubtedly better wages, and everything is lower in price; I am sure you are as well aware as myself of the influence which such causes have upon the welfare of a family.

4729. Their material condition is better?—Their material condition is better, decidedly.

4730. Do you think that drunkenness is still in course of diminution?—I think it is; and that improvement will be very much promoted, if you give the working-classes still greater means and facilities for amusement than they have at the present time.

4731. Mr. *Brown.*] Do you see any difficulty in dealing with the Conservative and Reform Clubs, where gentlemen can go and get a supper or other refreshment served to them; would you take them out of the category of public-houses on the ground of their being private societies?—Being private societies, they would not come under the law relating to public-houses.

4732. *Chairman.*] Have you any suggestion to make to the Committee with respect to the amendment of the law?—I would state that I wish the power of granting licences to be placed in the hands of a public and responsible board, acting upon fixed principles and under fixed rules, by which everybody applying would know whether he could obtain a licence or not; that the system of granting licences should not be capricious as it is now, without any of those fixed rules which, I think, are necessary to the proper discharge of so important a duty.

4733. I think you have referred, also, to a more rigid application of the law?—I have; to a more rigid application of the law affecting the conduct of public houses. Not only more rigid; I would rather use the word "certain" than "rigid;" that is to say, that there should be greater certainty of offences being punished.

Mr. *James Balfour*, called in; and further Examined.

4734. *Chairman.*] YOU stated, when you were examined before, that you would make an inquiry into certain houses of public entertainment in London for the purpose of ascertaining in what way they are conducted; have you done so?—I have.

4735. What description of houses have you visited?—I visited some of the cheap theatres and places of amusement in London; I devoted the holidays to that object. I commenced with Saturday night, the 3rd of June, and my knowledge of London enabled me to find out the points which I conceived to be the places of resort. I went at ten at night to a theatre near the New Cut, called the Bower Saloon; the charges for admission are, 2*d.* for the gallery, 4*d.* for the pit, and 6*d.* for the boxes; but as I went in at half-price, I was allowed a stage-box to myself for 4*d.* I witnessed the play of Rob Roy Macgregor, and I should say it was represented very well indeed.

4736. What sort of audience was there?—The audience consisted, as nearly as I could count them, of about 400 persons, principally young males and females; there might have been four, besides myself, respectably dressed persons in the theatre. During the time of the performance the audience conducted themselves with the strictest propriety; I have not seen greater decorum during a performance in Drury-lane theatre.

4737. Is the Bower Saloon licensed by the Lord Chamberlain?—Yes; under an old Act of George the Second. I waited till the performance was over; I should mention that there is a passage from the theatre to the street, and there is a private door goes into a drinking-house; I counted 50 males and females out of that audience of about 400 going into this drinking-house. I went in after it

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

27 June 1854.

was all over, and had a little conversation with the money-taker of the place; he told me it had been established for 20 years, and that was the sort of audiences he had. I saw a bill on this door stating, that upon pewter pots taken away from the bar there must be a deposit left for their safe return; but I felt desirous of seeing the character of the persons that went into the said drinking-house; this drinking-house is connected by a private door with the theatre; I went into a room, and the people were drinking and conversing. I then went down to the bottom of the New Cut and Charlotte-street; I went into every drinking-house, numbering about 16. I will just give the Committee a description of one: it was a house very gaudily fitted up, with the first floor taken out and thrown into the shop, with some showy representations round it. I think I counted 50 persons in all drinking, and amongst the number were women with children in their arms. Upon one butt there was an infant fast asleep, and the father and mother were drunk by the side; against the counter was a little child, about four years old, fast asleep; they were serving as fast as they could; I then visited all the rest of the public-houses from Blackfriars-road; they were all full of people drinking.

4738. At what o'clock was this?—This was up to 12 o'clock; the publicans were driving the people out at 12 o'clock; and, as the clock struck 12, the policemen were at the door of each of the public-houses as I came along, to prevent the people from going in again. I then came back to the Bower Theatre, and it was a quarter past twelve when I got there. The theatre was closed; all the theatres had been closed, the Victoria, Astley's, the Surrey, by half-past 11 o'clock. When I came back to this Bower Theatre, at the public-house adjoining it, there was one fight inside and just after two fights outside; and from all that I saw from half-past 11 until a quarter-past 12 o'clock, if the police had done their duty, according to the Act of Parliament, in taking up all disorderly persons, it would have required 30 times as many policemen at least more than were on duty.

4739. Therefore they could not do their duty?—No. At Watchorn's there were policemen with their staves to prevent the people from pushing the door in, as the publican inside and his servants drove them out to prevent their getting more drink, and to enable the public-house to be closed at the time prescribed by the Act of Parliament.

4740. Was this after 12 o'clock?—Yes.

4741. Is the Bower Theatre kept by a publican?—No.

4742. Does the drinking-place belong to the theatre?—No.

4743. You say there was a door open from the theatre into the public-house?—Yes; there was a passage leading to the gallery, the pit, and the boxes, in which there was a door connected with the Bower public-house.

4744. Fifty out of the 400 persons went to the Bower public-house?—Yes, as near as I could count them. I had a pocket full of peas, and for every person that went in I put a pea into another pocket.

4745. Were they young or old persons at the theatre?—Principally young.

4746. Did the 50 that went to the drinking house misconduct themselves?—The results of the drinking was, that there were three fights, one inside and two outside of the public-house.

4747. But the people generally went to the theatre, saw a rather good performance, and went away quietly?—I should call it a fairish representation of Rob Roy. I heard nothing there which would shock me at all.

4748. How many theatres of that kind did you visit?—I only visited that one that night, because I could not; there are many others up at Whitechapel, &c.

4749. Are there theatres of this kind about London?—Yes.

4750. Are they fully attended?—They are very well attended.

4751. Did you go into any other places of public amusement?—When I left the New Cut and that part of London, it must have been just before one o'clock on the Sunday morning. I then walked on my road towards the Haymarket; and on the west side of the Haymarket, directly adjoining the Opera House, the whole of the fish and refreshment shops were open, but apparently to me the drinking-houses were closed. But from the corner of Charles-street to the end of the Haymarket there were a number of well-dressed persons, male and female; the character of the females, I have no hesitation in saying, was loose and disreputable. There were one or two females that I saw smoking cigars. I was desirous of ascertaining whether they visited the places in the neighbourhood, and found that there was one place in Piccadilly and the refreshment-shops in the Haymarket

Haymarket that they visited, and got strong drink at. I could not prove that to the Committee, because I did not go into the houses.

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

27 June 1854.

4752. Was this on the Sunday morning?—Yes, at one o'clock. I then got home as fast I could to my own residence. On the same morning at 11 o'clock I went out again to the New Cut, in the same vicinity that I had been in on the over-night. I felt desirous of seeing the effects of the public-houses being kept open till 12 o'clock on Saturday night, which I believe to be a great evil to the working classes. I have had 16 years' experience among the working classes as a temperance missionary, and I am decidedly of opinion that it is a great evil to keep the houses open till 12 o'clock on Saturday night; it has a bad effect on the observance of the Sabbath. Five out of six of the shops in the New Cut, such as clothiers, ironmongers, bird-fanciers, dealers in food, and, in fact, all shops, were open all day, that is, up to one o'clock; and, as nearly as I could calculate, there could not have been less than 7,000 people promenading from the corner of the New Cut to Surrey Chapel; it was like a fair. I could not help thinking that it was more like Saturday night than the Sabbath-day.

4753. Were they purchasing things at the shops?—Yes.

4754. Was there any public-house open?—Not till one o'clock. I placed myself in a position so that I could see three public-houses, and the rush into those houses was excessive; I should say that the publicans inside and the barmen had quite enough to do to serve the people.

4755. Did you see those houses when they were closed again; had the publicans much difficulty in getting the people out?—They were not closed till three o'clock.

4756. Did you see a number of persons waiting for the public-houses being opened?—Yes. I walked up into the neighbourhood of Seven Dials, because my former evidence had reference to years back; I had heard persons say that there was an alteration, but I found no alteration.

4757. Do the people drink in the morning?—Directly the houses are open on Sunday; wherever there is a thick working population, there they wait at the corners to rush into the public-houses directly they are opened.

4758. It is not merely to get beer to take home to their families, but they stand at the bar and drink?—Yes; to have what they call a friendly glass, or a glass to quench their thirst; the minority would be the parties to take beer home to their families.

4759. Were the public-houses as full in the evening?—In the afternoon at three o'clock I went into the neighbourhood of the City-road; I took Old-street, Old-street road, and a part of Goswell-street. I wished to pay a visit to the Eagle Tavern and some other places in that neighbourhood; and the first place I saw that attracted my attention was a beershop in Old Street-road, where it was written up, "This evening there will be a discussion here. Subject, Breach of Promise of Marriage." I thought I would pay a visit to this beershop; however I walked round to the various gin-palaces and counted the people. I observed the drinking principally was amongst the working people, and many of them were badly dressed. I visited one beer-house which I was told was used by very bad characters; however, I never take hearsay; I always like to convince myself; I went into that beerhouse, and certainly there were young men there that by night I should not like to have trusted myself with, with the door shut. I always keep the door behind me open with my foot, so that I have an opportunity of retreating if there should be any attempt to injure me. I went down Goswell Street-road into Old-street, and I saw a mob of persons; this was about half-past five o'clock on Sunday; and in the middle of the mob of perhaps 200, there was a man in a state of maddened intoxication attempting to, what he called, preach; he was attempting to preach against the sin of robbery. The police and his wife were trying to get him home; one of the policemen wanted him to go home, but the police do not like to meddle with drunken men at all, as, if the men are too strong, unfortunately they get kicked and knocked about. One of these policemen said, "Go home!" but the very moment the policeman went near him he attempted to show fight with the officer; he was certainly a very strong man.

4760. Did you see many other people drunk?—Four or five round him were drunk; but not so drunk as he was.

4761. This was five o'clock in the afternoon. He could not have got drunk when the houses were open between one and three?—Yes. I walked up to the

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

27 June 1854.

man myself, and I said to the police, "If you will keep the mob back, I will get the man home." I went and tapped him on the shoulder. I said, "Come, you and I will go and talk theology privately." Seeing a small-sized man in plain clothes, he shook my hand, and I got him eventually to take my arm. I got the police to keep the mob off, and eventually I got the man home. He was a watchmaker, with a wife and seven children. His wife told me that he had gone out after his dinner with a sum of money in his pocket into a public-house, and she said he could not have spent all the money. He charged the publican with cheating him of his change, and that was the cause of his preaching in the middle of the street, before the public-house, against the sin of robbery.

4762. Do you mention this case to show that people get drunk between one and three o'clock on Sunday afternoon?—I mention it to show that, if the public-houses were closed entirely on the Sabbath-day, drunkenness must be diminished.

4763. What did you find at the other places which were open on the Sunday?—After walking about a great deal I went back to the beer-shop, where I was to hear the discussion on breach of promise of marriage. I went in there, and there were 14 or 15 persons, male and female; but of the 14 or 15, 7 or 8 were intoxicated. They told me the chairman was not come, and the discussion would not take place.

4764. Do these discussions take place at beershops for the purpose of attracting custom?—Most assuredly.

4765. Did you go to the Eagle Tavern on Sunday?—Yes.

4766. Was there any music or any other attractions?—There were no attractions beyond the ornamental garden, the grotto, and the lights.

4767. Is that a temperance place?—No; far from it.

4768. Do people go and drink and smoke?—Yes; you have to pay sixpence for a refreshment ticket; a refreshment ticket gives the privilege of taking a lady in; they wait round the door to be taken in by gentlemen.

4769. Did you see any ladies and gentlemen go in?—I saw plenty go in; the place was very full.

4770. Is it a licensed house?—Yes, and it is licensed also for amusements, under the Act of George the Second.

4771. Is the Eagle open upon the Sunday night?—It is open, but not for any amusements.

4772. What do you call amusements?—There was no music or singing. There are various rooms; there is what is called the Chinese room, the ball-room, and the concert-room; they were all filled with persons drinking, and I saw a great number of female servants, and females of a certain description; there is no doubt upon that subject at all.

4773. Are there many places like the Eagle Tavern in London?—In every neighbourhood there are places of that sort. I went to two others without paying anything at the doors; the visitors are of a lower order, but they are all drinking-houses.

4774. You do not believe that they had been to church in the morning?—No.

4775. Do you think that those people would go to the Crystal Palace on Sunday if it were open?—My impression is, that if the public museums and the picture galleries and the Crystal Palace were thrown open upon the Sabbath-day, and the public-houses and places where intoxicating drinks are sold were closed, it would raise the morality and the tastes of the people of England.

4776. You think it would take some of those people you have seen in your walks from the public-houses, and lead them to higher places of amusement?—Yes; there is no inducement to go to places like the Eagle Tavern beyond the drink, because in 10 minutes you can see all that there is to be seen; the people would not go over and over again to those places if it were not for the drink and the company.

4777. You have no doubt that there is a great deal of drunkenness and disorder on Sunday night in London, from what you have observed?—I have seen often, on my road home, and did see that night, as many as 15 persons in a state of incapable intoxication, from the Eagle Tavern in the City Road, to my own residence in the Harrow Road.

4778. Do you think there would be as much disorder if no intoxicating drinks were sold at such places as the Eagle Tavern?—No.

4779. You

4779. You think the disorder is all owing to the drink?—I think the principal part of the immorality is caused by it; two females that accosted me both told me that they were ruined by visiting that place.

4780. Did you visit any other place that was open on Sunday?—No; I visited the public-houses on my road home, and they were all filled.

4781. At what o'clock was that?—From half-past 10 to just upon 12 on Sunday night.

4782. Do you believe there is a great deal more drinking takes place at that time than before that time?—Yes.

4783. You think the drinking begins later in the day?—Yes; some of the publicans have adopted the plan of having self-playing organs to attract customers.

4784. Mr. *Packe.*] With respect to the theatre in the New-cut, at which you say there were 400 persons, you also say that there is an entrance from that theatre to the public-house?—No.

4785. Is there not a road from the public-house, connecting it with the theatre?—There is a door, in fact there are two doors, in the passage to the theatre.

4786. Is not the owner or the occupier of the public-house connected with the management of the theatre?—I asked that question, and I was told no; that they were two distinct persons; one kept the theatre, and the other the public-house.

4787. I understood you to say that the drunkenness took place in the public-house?—Yes, after the performance was over.

4788. Mr. *Brown.*] In point of fact, the public-house and the theatre played into each other's hands; the public-house attracted people for the sake of the drink, and the theatre attracted people for the sake of the performance, so that they somewhat assisted each other?—Yes. Since I was last examined, I have obtained an accurate number of persons who attended the Leeds temperance festivals. In 1850 there were 24,000 persons present; in 1851 the festival was not held, because it was an unpleasant day; in 1852 there were 20,000 persons present; in 1853 there were 22,000 persons present; and in 1854, last Whit-Monday, there were 16,000 present. The charge for admission was, adults 6*d.*, and children 3*d.* The profit of those festivals to the Society in 1850 was 200*l.*; in 1852, 123*l.*; and in 1853 and 1854 the average profit was 100*l.* There was no damage done to any of the articles in the garden. Nothing of an intoxicating nature was allowed to be consumed upon the premises if it was known. I have received a letter from Mr. Joseph Eaton, of Bristol, wherein he says: "The average number of persons who have attended our festivals in the Zoological Gardens have been from 18,000 to 20,000." I have no hesitation in saying, from my knowledge of the working-classes, that if you separate the taking of strong drinks from the amusements of the people, a great good in a moral, social, and intellectual point of view will result.

4789. Mr. *Gregson.*] Did not you attend the fête given at the Surrey Zoological Gardens?—I conducted that fête.

4790. When was that?—Last year, and the year before.

4791. What numbers attended?—I think somewhere about 26,000 each day.

4792. Was good order observed?—Yes. I have a letter from the proprietor of the gardens, stating that there was not a rose or a flower in the slightest degree injured. I had only trouble with one drunken sailor who got in.

4793. No intoxicating drinks were allowed?—None.

4794. Lord *E. Bruce.*] You have mentioned the Eagle Tavern, and you say that it is a most ill-conducted house?—I say that it is one of the worst, in a moral point of view, in its effect upon the morality of the parties who visit it. As far as the proprietor is concerned, the place is well conducted. He was there himself, and there was no disorder. I do not wish the Committee to infer that I say there was. I say it had a demoralising effect upon the visitors, male and female.

4795. Do you know who the owner of the Eagle is now?—Mr. Conquest.

4796. The theatrical performances only take place on the weekdays, you say?—Yes.

4797. Has he a licence from the Lord Chamberlain?—Yes; under the Act of Geo. 2.

4798. What are the amusements on Sunday?—There are none at all but promenading about. No gentleman, well dressed, can promenade there without being solicited by a female to go to houses of accommodation outside, whether he be aged, middle-aged, or young. I had not sat down above five minutes when I was solicited twice, and told that there were houses outside for me to go to.

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

27 June 1854.

4799. When the amusements are going on on the weekdays, are the people allowed to eat and drink in the place where the amusements are going on; can you have beer or wine during the performance of the plays?—I have never been there, but I have been told that both wine and spirits can be brought into the theatre during the representations.

4800. Are the people who pay at the doors provided with what they like to drink, up to a certain amount?—I took a refreshment-ticket, and that enabled me to have admission on the Sunday afternoon; at Cremorne Gardens it is precisely the same. At the Eagle Tavern a Sunday refreshment-ticket entitles you to admission and sixpenny-worth of refreshment; if you go upon other days of the week you pay for the amusements and the refreshments also; you pay for the amusements just as you do at other theatres. If you walk from the Angel in the City-road down to the corner of Tottenham Court-road, there is no place in London where there are so many disreputable women as will be found in that one walk.

4801. Mr. *Gregson.*] Do you speak of Sunday only?—Sunday and other days.

4802. Lord *E. Bruce.*] Have you ever heard of any information having been laid against this house, or that the police have ever interfered?—No, I believe the house, as respects fighting and disorder, is extremely well conducted; there is a large body of police in their uniform, and there are others in plain clothes.

4803. Are there always policemen there?—Yes.

4804. What sort of performances are there at the Eagle Tavern; are they acting or dancing?—Dramatic performances, and there is a ball-room for dancing, as well.

4805. Have you been there when there has been a performance?—No, not of late years.

4806. You do not know what sort of language is spoken upon the stage?—No; I suppose they are the same performances as you would see at the Princess's or any other theatre.

4807. Do you know at what hour the performance begins?—It begins about eight, and closes at 11 or half-past 11; I have passed there when the performances have been over; the gardens have not been closed.

4808. Mr. Conquest, the new proprietor, I believe, used to be an actor?—I believe he was.

4809. You are aware that the Lord Chamberlain's licence is only granted once a year, and only for one year; would you be prepared to come forward to represent that as a house that is ill-conducted, and that does a great deal of harm, and could you bring other persons to say the same?—Before I could give any evidence of that description I must visit the house on weekdays, and see how it is conducted at night. I am quite satisfied that at nights the connexion of drink with a place of amusement has the effect of drawing disreputable females there. Of course, I can give evidence to that effect; but as to the conduct of the people in the gardens on other nights but Sunday nights, I cannot speak, and should not speak unless I had visited the place.

4810. In what part of London is the Eagle Tavern?—In the City-road, in the north-east of London.

4811. Have you never heard of the clergy, the principal inhabitants of the parish, the churchwardens, or others, interfering?—I have never heard that they have interfered; for young persons the place does not bear a good character; I should be very sorry for my sons to visit it at any time.

4812. *Chairman.*] You refer all the mischief to drink?—I refer all the mischief to connecting strong drinks with the amusements of the people; I say that has always, in my experience, been detrimental to the social order and comfort of the people, whether at free-and-easies, judge-and-jury clubs, concerts, or casinos, or anything else; it has a demoralising and degenerating effect.

4813. Do you not believe that young people of both sexes would go to the gardens whether there was drink to be had or not?—I have no doubt they would go to places of amusement. It would not pay Mr. Conquest to keep his house open on Sunday, unless he could sell drink.

4814. Are there no temperance gardens?—No.

4815. Are there not some places where the parties only sell tea and coffee, and those things, without a licence to sell anything stronger?—I do not know of any.

4816. Have

547

Mr. *J. Balfour.*

27 June 1854.

4816. Have you known any people faint at those temperance meetings, when there have been 20,000 or 30,000 people, for want of a little drink?—I never saw any. The people who frequent the Eagle Tavern on Sunday are well dressed. It is astonishing to see what influence these places have. I have known people to go on Monday morning and pledge the very clothes which they wore on Sunday. I made a calculation of the number of pawnbrokers there are in London. There appear to be about 350 pawnbrokers' shops in London, the principal portion of which are in poor neighbourhoods. Their busiest time is on Monday morning and Saturday night. It is no uncommon thing for a suit of clothes which has been worn on Sunday to go to the pawnbroker's every Monday morning all the year round. I know more than one instance in which a suit of clothes is pledged every Monday morning.

4817. Was that in order to get drink?—Yes; they go out and spend in the afternoon 5*s.* or 10*s.*, which they have to obtain from the pawnbroker's on Monday morning.

4818. You believe if the public houses were closed on Sunday, the pawnbrokers would have less to do on Monday?—Most assuredly, and it would be better for the people.

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

PAPERS delivered in by Mr. *John Cunliffe*, 9 *June* 1854.

DRUNKENNESS ON SUNDAY.

Appendix, No. 1.

SPECIAL RETURN by the CHIEF CONSTABLE, made to the Court of Quarter Sessions held at Salford, on the 9th day of April 1849, and ordered to be Printed.

LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY.

RETURN showing the Number of Persons Apprehended and Summoned for Drunkenness on Sunday, in the several Divisions of the County, for Six Months prior to the passing of the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 49, and also for Six Months subsequent thereto, and the Effects thereby produced, according to Reports from Superintendents of Divisions.

	Six Months prior to Passing of the Act.	Six Months subsequent to Passing of the Act.
NORTH LONSDALE DIVISION - - - - - - - -	19	10
Remarks.—A great decrease of drunkenness on Sundays, it being an unusual thing to see an intoxicated person about on that day. There is also less drunkenness on Saturday and Monday, the latter day especially. The behaviour and external appearance of many persons addicted to drinking on Sunday mornings has become much improved.		
SOUTH LONSDALE DIVISION - - - - - - - -	17	7
Remarks.—The Act has had the effect of lessening drunkenness on the Lord's day; a decided improvement to be observed in persons who are constant frequenters of public-houses. Not much drunkenness in the streets, except on alternate Saturday nights, when the railway labourers receive their pay.		
AMOUNDERNESS DIVISION - - - - - - - -	25	16
Remarks.—The Act has had decidedly a beneficial effect, which is not so observable, however, in the rural districts as in towns. There are fewer cases of drunkenness, as shown by the returns.		
LOWER BLACKBURN DIVISION - - - - - - - -	64	109
Remarks.—The Act 11 and 12 Vict. c. 49, has had the effect of lessening drunkenness in the early part of the Lord's day, more particularly in the town of Blackburn. There is, however, an increase in the amount of drinking carried on in private houses, which has led to disorderly conduct, and hence the increased number brought before the magistrates. An improvement in this respect is gradually taking place.		

	Six Months prior to Passing of the Act.	Six Months subsequent to Passing of the Act.
HIGHER BLACKBURN DIVISION - - - - - - - - - -	80	66
Remarks.—The disorders in public-houses upon Saturday nights and Sunday mornings may be almost said to be abolished. It has, however, caused an increase in offences against the revenue laws and the number of hush-shops.		
LEYLAND DIVISION - - - - - - - - - - - -	38	13
Remarks.—But little effect on those who come under the denomination of habitual drunkards. A decided improvement to be observed in the streets during the whole of Sunday, the long interval between closing on Saturday nights and re-opening on Sundays enabling persons to get sober, and to resist temptation.		
BOLTON DIVISION - - - - - - - - - - - -	35	15
Remarks.—The Act has done much good, as is clearly shown by the fewer cases of drunkenness, and the greater order and quiet in the roads and streets. If public-houses were altogether closed on Sundays, a much greater benefit would be felt; publicans take more money on Sunday evenings than on any other day during the week.		
BURY DIVISION - - - - - - - - - - - -	26	26
Remarks.—The Act has had the effect of increasing hush-shops, where habitual drunkards resort; but a great change has, nevertheless, taken place for the better throughout the division. The streets are clear of drunken persons much earlier than formerly on Saturday nights, and there are fewer drunken persons about the streets on Sundays.		
MIDDLETON DIVISION - - - - - - - - - -	58	27
Remarks.—It has had the effect of lessening drunkenness generally to a very considerable extent; the interval between closing on Saturday nights and opening on Sunday giving time for reflection, by which many are deterred from continuing in drink who would otherwise do so. Habitual drunkards are in the habit of assembling at private houses (having previously laid in a stock when the public-houses close), where they continue drinking through the night, and, not unfrequently, all next day, quarrelling and fighting; they are not, however, so frequently brought before the Bench. Hush-shops are on the increase.		
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE DIVISION - - - - - - - -	11	8
Remarks.—A decided improvement in the habits of the people for sobriety, order and cleanliness, particularly on the Lord's day.		
MANCHESTER DIVISION - - - - - - - - - -	77	44
Remarks.—Drunkenness on Sunday greatly on the decrease since the new Act came into operation; there is scarcely a drunken person to be seen in the streets or lanes on that day.		
KIRKDALE DIVISION - - - - - - - - - -	17	19
Remarks.—Has not had the effect of lessening drunkenness on the Lord's day; thinks it would be better if public-houses were closed from Saturday till Monday.		
ORMSKIRK DIVISION - - - - - - - - - - -	25	19
Remarks.—Decided decrease in the number of persons seen drunk on Sundays in the district since the passing of the Act. The improvement is not owing entirely thereto, as there are fewer navigators employed than formerly.		

Appendix, No. 1.

	Six Months prior to Passing of the Act.	Six Months subsequent to Passing of the Act.
Prescot Division - - - - - - - - - -	52	25
Remarks.—Beneficial effects clearly exemplified by fewer cases of drunkenness on Sunday, and the more regular attendance at church of both publicans and their customers. A degree of quietness and order in large towns not before known. Thinks that if the provisions of the Act were extended to the closing of public-houses (except to travellers) for the entire day, its utility would be greatly extended; there would be a more distinct interruption to the continued debauch, which is often carried on from Saturday to Monday.		
St. Helen's Division - - - - - - - - - -	49	24
Remarks.—Beneficial effects in lessening drunkenness, especially with habitual drunkards. Thinks that if the Act extended to the closing of public-houses at a certain hour every night, the benefit to the working class would be great, and better order maintained.		
Warrington Division - - - - - - - - - -	101	79
Remarks.—The effect of the Act has been most beneficial upon the confirmed drunkard; and as regards drunkenness generally, there are not so many drunken persons about the streets and highways on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, as formerly.		
Total Number Apprehended and Summoned - -	694	507

J. Woodford, Chief Constable.

PENALTIES inflicted upon Publicans and Beersellers by the County Magistrates acting for the Division of Bolton, in the County of Lancaster, for Selling in Unlawful Hours, and other Breaches of the Terms of their Licences, but principally for Violations of the Act which closes these Houses until Half-past Twelve o'clock on the Sunday, from 3d June 1853 to 3d June 1854.

——	Penalty and Costs.	——	Penalty and Costs.	——	Penalty and Costs.
	s. d.		*s. d.*		*s. d.*
No. 1	Costs.	No. 25	10 – and Costs.	No. 49	Costs.
2	20 – and Costs.	26	20 – – ditto.	50	60 – and Costs.
3	20 – – ditto.	27	Costs.	51	20 – – ditto.
4	20 – – ditto.	28	5 – – ditto.	52	100 – – ditto.
5	10 – – ditto.	29	Costs.	53	40 – – ditto.
6	2 6 – ditto.	30	5 – – ditto.	54	100 – – ditto.
7	40 – – ditto.	31	20 – – ditto.	55	4 – – ditto.
8	Costs.	32	10 – – ditto.	56	20 – – ditto.
9	40 – – ditto.	33	50 – – ditto.	57	10 – – ditto.
10	10 – – ditto.	34	Costs.	58	5 – – ditto.
11	40 – – ditto.	35	40 – – ditto.	59	40 – – ditto.
12	Costs.	36	Costs.	60	20 – – ditto.
13	10 – – ditto.	37	20 – – ditto.	61	20 – – ditto.
14	10 – – ditto.	38	20 – – ditto.	62	20 – – ditto.
15	Costs.	39	20 – – ditto.	63	20 – – ditto.
16	40 – – ditto.	40	20 – – ditto.	64	20 – – ditto.
17	10 – – ditto.	41	40 – – ditto.	65	20 – – ditto.
18	10 – – ditto.	42	5 – – ditto.	66	5 – – ditto.
19	10 – – ditto.	43	20 – – ditto.	67	10 – – ditto.
20	20 – – ditto.	44	10 – – ditto.	68	Costs.
21	60 – – ditto.	45	20 – – ditto.	69	4 – – ditto.
22	Costs.	46	10 – – ditto.	70	10 – – ditto.
23	20 – – ditto.	47	5 – – ditto.	71	2 6 – ditto.
24	10 – – ditto.	48	Costs.	72	20 – – ditto.

The

The penalties amount in the aggregate to 66 *l.* 8 *s.*, and give an average for the 72 cases of 18 *s.* 6 *d.* each.

In the borough of Bolton, from 31st August 1852 to 31st August 1853, 98 cases were reported by the police, of which number 41 were convicted in penalties and costs, and 23 in costs only, the amount of penalties for the whole being 40 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.*, making an average of penalties in the 41 cases of 19 *s.* 7 *d.*

Petition for the Gradual Repeal of the Beer Act.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants [or the Congregation] of

Showeth,

That the establishment of beer-houses has not answered the end proposed of benefiting the poor; on the contrary, their existence has proved decidedly and increasingly injurious to the working classes.

That the temptations presented by these houses have been especially ruinous to young persons, and in thousands of instances heads of families have resorted to them, to the neglect of every personal and relative duty.

That vast numbers are thereby reduced to utter poverty, who, by throwing themselves on parochial relief, inflict a grievous injustice on the industrious and sober portion of the population.

That the proceedings of our criminal courts abundantly prove that these places are a never-failing source of crime, and consequently the occasion of immense expense to the nation.

Your petitioners therefore earnestly entreat your Right Honourable House to prohibit the granting of any new licences to beer-houses, and to cause those already granted to be in force only during the tenure of the present holders.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

STATEMENT of the Number of Persons, in 12 each, of Public and Beer-houses in the Borough of *Bolton*, on Sunday Evening, 4 June 1854, between the Hours of 8 and 9 o'clock P.M.

Public-houses.		Beer-houses.	
No. 1	32	No. 1	8
2	36	2	16
3	13	3	17
4	18	4	23
5	35	5	11
6	11	6	10
7	15	7	11
8	7	8	18
9	15	9	18
10	22	10	23
11	18	11	7
12	9	12	33
Total in Public-houses	231	Total in Beer-houses	195

The above houses were visited as presenting a fair average of the whole, there being several houses much more numerously attended than any of the above. Regarded as an average, and taking the public-houses at 118, the number in the borough, it gives a total of 2,271 persons as then present in this description of houses.

Regarding the beer-houses in the same manner, and taking them at 208, the present number in the borough, it will give a total of 3,380 persons as present at the above hour in this description of houses; the two forming a total of 5,651 persons, being nearly equal to the number of persons present in all the places of worship on the evening of the census Sunday in March 1851. The above number would probably comprise one-fourth of the working male adult population, and forms but a small approximation of the aggregate number who visited these houses during the day.

Appendix, No. 2.

Appendix, No. 2.

STATEMENT of *John Coke Fowler*, Stipendiary Magistrate for *Glamorganshire* and *Monmouthshire*.

Having been prevented from waiting upon the Committee, I hope they will allow me to lay before them the following suggestions and considerations. My office as Stipendiary Magistrate for a populous district, comprising parts of Monmouthshire, Glamorganshire, and Brecknockshire, in which there are about 500 licensed public-houses and beerhouses, has given me many opportunities of observing their influence upon the population, and the operation of the laws affecting them.

The character of the Welsh people engaged in the iron works and collieries of this district, is marked by courtesy of manner, sociable and friendly habits, warmth of heart, and strong religious feelings. If sobriety also generally prevailed, I doubt whether any population could be found more free from the greater, or even the minor crimes. But the lower classes having become generally addicted to drinking, and being of a more excitable temperament than the Englishman, assaults have become extremely common; and I am satisfied that if any hundred criminal charges were strictly investigated in this district, it would appear that, almost without exception, whether the offence were against person or property, they had arisen from the abuse of strong drinks.

The only perfect remedy for this evil is the awakening of the reason and conscience of men by education; but as that remedy is unattainable in the present generation, and considering that the vice of drunkenness has reached the dimensions of a national calamity, I submit to the Committee that for the sake of the national character, and the health and happiness of the people, it is necessary to impose some further restrictions upon the sale and use of beer.

The present restrictions upon the freedom of this trade consists partly in the mode of granting licences, and partly in certain prohibitions enforced by penalties. I think that some alteration is expedient in each class of these restrictions.

With regard to the system of licensing, I am at a loss to understand why the magistrates are now entrusted with absolute power over the licence of the victualler, while that of the beerhouse-keeper is placed beyond their control. That power which was given to them with the design of enabling them to measure the issue of licences by the exigencies of the population, is entirely neutralised by the indefinite multiplication of beerhouses by the licence of the Excise. Therefore, in exercising the power of licensing myself, I consider it idle to inquire whether the additional tavern is required, and I move that the licence be granted on proof that the applicant has a respectable character and a good house. I cannot but think that the distinction between magistrates' and Excise licences being broken down, much of that private canvassing and interest which is often improperly brought to bear upon the magistrates would be got rid of.

With regard to the limitation of hours for opening and closing the houses, the only change I desire at present is, that all the licensed houses should be closed at three o'clock on Sunday afternoon until Monday morning. I have adopted this opinion very recently; I refused to sign a petition on this subject, believing that the population was not ripe for such a change, and that they would feel the inconvenience of it very keenly. But conversations I have since held with a considerable number of working men, taken by chance without any knowledge of their character, have convinced me that they themselves will rejoice at such a change. I believe they are generally alive to the evils of drinking, and seem to feel the need of some protection against their own habits and frailties. They all agreed in stating that the mischief is not limited to Sunday evenings, but that nothing is more common than for the working man to find himself unfit for work on Monday, and be again driven by thirst and languor to waste that day also at the tavern. The publicans are also anxious for the change, because they need some leisure for attending Divine Service after the business of the day is over. The only class entitled to consideration are the young unmarried men; but as they always have access in their lodgings to the sitting-room and fire, I think that any inconvenience they may feel is trifling compared with the probable benefits of such a change.

I am not in favour of closing the houses between one and three o'clock on Sunday. That period should, in my judgment, be allowed for the purchase of fresh-drawn liquors; but after that time I respectfully urge upon the Committee that the sanctity of the Lord's Day, public decency and morality, the interests of the industrious classes and their own wishes, are united in requiring the partial measure which I support.

I desire to urge upon the Committee the expediency of collecting all the regulations affecting the public-houses and beershops into one new statute, thus avoiding the difficulty of searching for the actual law in five different Acts.

I also

I also think that a definition of the word traveller might be usefully inserted in the following terms:—"Provided always, that no person shall be deemed to be a traveller within the meaning of the exemption in this Act contained, unless he shall be actually in the course of a journey, or have recently arrived at his or her destination, not being the place of his residence."

Also, "That the consumption of beer during the prohibited hours shall be taken and deemed to be evidence of the sale of it within the same."

(signed) *John Coke Fowler.*

From Mr. *Benjamin Lang*, Proprietor of Concert Rooms in *Manchester*, to the Chairman and Members of the Parliamentary Committee.

Victoria-bridge, Manchester,
15 June 1854.

Gentlemen,

There exists so large an amount of misapprehension with regard to the conduct and influence of concert or singing-rooms, and so many unjustifiable statements have been put forth with a view to impress upon the public mind the idea that they are the very worst means of recreation, and their tendency being to deprave the taste of the people, that it becomes necessary to notice in a proper spirit these allegations, and show the true character of musical entertainments in public-houses. Generally speaking, the persons who decry these amusements do not visit the concert and singing-rooms, but to serve their purpose hire prejudiced persons to attend them occasionally, or else speak at random from hearsay; on the information thus obtained, they found a tissue of statements which will not bear the test of inquiry and proof. What are the real facts? I consider that concert-rooms for the working classes have been the means of doing away with and preventing a great deal of gambling, drunkenness, quarrelling and fighting in the houses of licensed victuallers, for the company usually frequenting the tap-rooms and the club-rooms of public-houses have deserted those places, and now find a means of enjoyment in concert-rooms with less cost to themselves, and a larger share of pleasure.

Concert-rooms from their peculiar construction, offer no convenience for gambling or fighting, or any of those vices with which they are charged, and the attention of the company is continually being drawn to the musical entertainments provided for them, and so checks effectually the practice of such vices.

Working men visiting concert-rooms usually pay 2*d.* on admission, for which they are entitled to the full value in refreshments, such as ale, spirits, porter, ginger beer, coffee, lemonade, cakes, biscuits, pies, &c. By far the greatest proportion consumed in the largest concert-room in Manchester is in coffee and ginger beer, which fact shows that the charge of encouraging drunkenness is untrue; for this 2*d.* the visitor can, if he pleases, sit the whole of the evening and enjoy all the entertainments provided, and which he not unfrequently does, enabling to have a night's enjoyment at a small expenditure, as well as allowing him to indulge the taste, and still keep sober. It is a very rare thing to see a drunken man come out of a concert-room even upon a Saturday night; not one in a thousand. Yet it is stated by those who abuse concert-rooms that there ought not to be any spirits, ale, porter, &c., sold in such places.

It would be well if the general character of the working classes were inquired into, their habits, tastes, and morals, apart from the question of public-houses; they would be found prone to every class of light entertainments, and not to drunkenness, gambling, &c. Common events prove this fact on every side. Every class of society has its peculiar kind of entertainments; the higher classes, the subscription concerts, operas; the tradesmen, public concerts of various sorts; shopkeepers, their glee clubs, madrigal societies, &c.; Free Trade Hall and Mechanics' Institution concerts also on a very cheap scale; and the working classes, the honest, toiling operatives, have their cheap concerts and minor theatres. And why should they not? What the dress concert is to the wealthy man, the singing-room upon a cheap scale is to the producer of wealth.

If the concert-rooms of the working classes be not properly conducted, and the class of entertainments provided for them be not of a moral, or at least harmless character, make them so. No honest proprietor of a singing-room would wilfully suffer any outrage upon the public feelings of decency and decorum; nor would he object to be put upon a proper course, or be regulated by proper laws, defining public order and taste. It is well known that the tastes of the working classes are improving, and proprietors of such concert-rooms would be glad if the opportunity were permitted them by law to encourage that taste for higher class entertainments. It is the law, and not ourselves, that prevents us from meeting the real tastes and requirements of the working classes. We, the proprietors of concert-rooms, could afford to provide a good class of dramatic amusements, such as the taste of the people require, at the present charge for a refreshment ticket of two-pence, but the law prevents us from so doing. If we do not provide good entertainments, we are charged with encouraging vice and depravity; if we do provide legitimate entertainments we are heavily fined. Such is the strange anomaly of our position. Many of the concert-rooms are as valuable in property as most of the country theatres to which licences have been granted for stage plays; and the weekly expenditure in providing entertainments for the public is, in very many instances, more than is incurred in licensed theatres. I, therefore, see no good reason why

Appendix, No. 2.

the same privileges for providing public amusements for the people that is allowed to the minor theatres in London, should not be granted to the proprietors of suitable buildings in Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, and other large towns. Complaints are made against us for acting contrary to law, at the same time we are anxious to be put under the law. If magistrates were invested with the same powers exercised by the metropolitan justices, in granting licences to public-houses for musical entertainments and theatrical purposes, to such houses as have suitable premises, the proprietors of concert-rooms are willing to meet them upon either point; so that those who wish to retain the privilege of selling spirits, ale, and porter, may obtain common music licences, such as are granted by the Middlesex magistrates, and those proprietors of concert-rooms who are willing to give up the sale of spirits, ale, and porter, may obtain licences for theatrical purposes.

In both these cases the magistrates would have surveillance and jurisdiction, and if parties thus availing themselves committed any breach of the law, let them be deprived of their licences.

Many of the concert-rooms are upon a smaller scale, but they nevertheless provide such entertainments as the law only will allow them to do, and it is with regret they are compelled to submit to this partiality in the law; for the visitors of these places are of the same class, the working people, who have little to spend, and require the best and cheapest entertainments for their money.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *Benjamin Lane.*

STATEMENT from a BREWER, whose Respectability and Experience were Confirmed by a Member of the Committee.

Honoured Sir,

I FEEL as deep an interest in the morals of this country as any other well-meaning citizen, therefore you will pardon a few remarks from me on the following subject. I have had 30 years' experience among that body of men as a brewer, maltster, hop, wine and spirit merchant. I have always deplored the monopoly that exists amongst us brewers and spirit merchants over the innkeepers. I have frequently said that it was wrong for the licensed victualler to be bound to sell to the public such trash as the unprincipled part of the brewers and merchants force upon them. A remedy ought to be provided by Parliament against this crying evil. They hold bills of sale, warrants of attorneys, and mortgages over their stock. It is not likely that a body of men so bound down can conduct their business in a respectable way. In the second place, I have seen and heard of all sorts of crimes in these houses. The old licensed victuallers, in my opinion, are no better, as a body, than the beersellers. The low public-houses and the beersellers are just one as bad as another. To check the above evil there wants some alteration in the law. In the first place, the landlord that lets the premises ought to be held responsible in a certain degree for the conducting of those houses in a respectable way; but the fact is, in many instances, if he can only get plenty of rent, he does not care who he lets his house to, nor how it is conducted. If he can let it to a brewer, maltster, wine and spirit merchant, from 10 *l.* to 50 *l.* a year more rent than to a small respectable capitalist, who would conduct the house well, he prefers the large brewer or merchant, on the ground of getting the larger rent. The brewer, &c., take the thing into their own hands, and sublets it, and it is a matter of no moment to them what kind of characters they get to put into those houses. All they want to know is, who is the likeliest man to make them the largest return. Character is altogether out of the question. In the second place, if the man is brought up by the police before the justices, and fined time after time, till at length the house is likely to lose its licence, the next plan that is adopted is, the house is let to another man, the licence transferred. In many instances this man is worse than the first. All those gentlemen have got to do then, is to send the man that has served him here to another part of the country, till the police and the justices find him out. I have been an eye-witness of those things for this last 30 years. I think this wants a remedy. I would not transfer a licence, only in the case of death, from one man to another This would have the effect of shutting the house up til the licence day, and give the justices an opportunity of inquiring strictly into the merits of the case. In short, no man ought to have a licence granted him, that goes into a town a stranger, without a character from his late neighbours, or the mayor, justices, and superintendent of the police. There is a great deal said about Sunday trading. So far as closing the public-houses on that day, on that subject I have little to say; if it was adopted, I am afraid that a great number of illicit houses would open, commonly called hush-shops. I have held the following opinion between 20 and 30 years: If all public-houses were closed at 11 o'clock at night, it would answer all purposes, six days in the week; and on a Sunday from one to three, and from six to nine. A great number of honest, well-meaning men have to work, and go at night to take a glass, from eight to eleven o'clock. In consequence of those houses remaining open till three or four o'clock in the morning, they frequently stop till one, two, three, four, going home at various times; having lost the balance of reason in liquor, they are frequently misled by the dishonest and profligate; besides, it is long enough for any honest man who has to gain his bread, from six o'clock in the morning to six or seven o'clock in the night. An industrious, respectable man frequently goes into those houses after work, with an intention of taking a glass or two, but in consequence of the company present, and the facility that the law allows

555

allows the innkeeper, he is persuaded to stop. In consequence of that he is not able to get up to attend to his business at the proper time. My impression is that the innkeeper ought to be satisfied with the above-named hours. There are 17 out of every 24 for him; while he contends for a 10 hours' Bill for the working classes, I contend that he ought to be content with a 17 hours' Bill. I would not have two classes of public-houses, innkeepers and beersellers. I would not grant licences, one to sell beer, another to sell spirits, another to sell wine, and another tobacco. I would embody them all in one; it would be much better for all men that take licences to sell beer, cider, perry, vinegar, wine, spirits, and tobacco, to have them granted on the rack-rent. If a man pays his landlord from 20*l.* to 30*l.* a year rent, I would charge his licence 10*l.* a year; from 30*l.* to 40*l.*, 15*l.* a year; from 40*l.* to 60*l.*, 20*l.* a year; from 60*l.* to 80*l.*, 25*l.* a year; from 80*l.* to 100*l.*, and upwards, 30*l.* a year. My opinion is that, by adopting the above graduating plan, you would secure a better class of houses. A wholesale dealer ought to have the privilege of taking a retail licence, and all the retail dealers the privilege of taking a wholesale licence. My object in embodying the whole of the articles that a man sells in one licence, is for the express purpose of giving his customers that call upon him, and the public that live round about him, an opportunity of purchasing the articles they want of their nearest vender. Under the old system it is quite possible to go a distance of eight or ten miles, passing several public-houses that do not sell wine; therefore, a lady or a gentleman being a little out of health, may be deprived of taking a glass of wine, and compelled to take either beer or spirits. I would throw the trade open, placing the licence granted under the Excise, giving the justices power to levy all fines. There ought to be a Bill passed not to allow the publicans to sell liquids more than 16 to 17 hours in the day, say from six o'clock in the morning from 10 to 11 o'clock at night. All temperance houses and commercial boarding-houses ought to be licensed after the same manner that innkeepers are licensed; they deal in many articles that the innkeepers deal in, namely, tea, coffee, soda water, lemonade, ginger beer, and a variety of aerated liquids and simple cordials, that pay them remarkably well. There are some thousands of these houses that pay no licence. There are thousands upon thousands of manufacturers of soda water, lemonade, and ginger beer, and a variety of simple cordials, that pay no licence whatever. I am of opinion that these parties, some of them, have made very handsome fortunes. The commercial boarding-houses are competitors with the innkeepers; and the cordial manufacturers are competitors with the compounders. I do not see any reason why the innkeeper should pay 10*l.* or 20*l.* a year for the licence, as the case may be, and commercial boarding-houses or temperance hotels should pay no licence at all; neither do I see that a compounder and cordial maker, paying 10*l.* a year, and an aerated water manufacturer and a simple compounder should pay nothing. What I mean by a simple compounder is a man that manufactures cordials without spirits, and so evades the law. There are some thousands of this class in the country, that a considerable revenue might be collected from at a nominal cost. If the above remarks be of any value to you, you are welcome to them, and to make what use of them you think proper; if not, I pray that you will excuse the liberty I have taken with you. If you want to know any reference respecting me, I beg most respectfully to refer you to the Honourable Member for Leeds.

To the Chairman of the Committee.

STATEMENT of Messrs. *Fearon*, Holborn Hill.

Sir,

Having been informed that the question has been under discussion as to the propriety of granting retail licences to houses that do not afford all the accommodation which their licences would permit, and being deeply interested in the decision at which you may arrive, we take the liberty of calling your attention to the following statement. Our house has now for three generations been engaged in the wine and spirit trade. About 17 years ago it was determined to close that portion of the business which was devoted to the sale of wines and spirits to be consumed on the premises; but, at the same time, to retain the retail licence, which was necessary to enable us to sell quantities less than two gallons. Upon this system (of supplying any quantity, however small, not to be consumed on the premises) we have ever since conducted our business, and we deprecate any alteration in the system of licensing which would compel us either to close that portion of our business altogether, or else to reopen it for drinking on the premises. The first alternative (besides being a great pecuniary sacrifice to us) would virtually be saying that the poor shall not have the power to go to so good a market as the rich; for whereas we now serve all our customers, from those who buy a quartern to those who buy a hogshead or a pipe, equally well, if we, and those who adopt the same course as ourselves, were forbidden to sell less than two gallons, all those whose means required small purchases would be compelled to go to the public-houses, &c.: an inferior market, both as to quality and price.

With regard to the second alternative, that we should recommence selling for drinking on the premises, while it is our opinion that every facility should be given for a poor man to obtain his luxuries or his necessaries of the best and purest description, and on the most favourable terms, yet we consider we are promoting the moral improvement of the people by offering every advantage to the very poorest purchaser to obtain the best article for his consumption at home, without exposing him to the temptations incident to those establish-

Appendix, No. 2.

ments where drinking is allowed on the premises. That our endeavours towards these ends have been appreciated, the very large amount of this portion of our business will testify; and we cannot see why we should be prevented continuing to carry out this system, or why we should be compelled to do a variety of things which we do not think necessary or desirable, because the retail licence which is necessary to enable us to conduct that portion of the business which we do think desirable, also includes the power to do more. We cannot see why, when we have paid for permission to sell any quantities, but think it advantageous only to sell within certain limitations, any external authority should step in to say, You must do all you have asked permission to do.

It appears to us that it would be quite as legitimate to tell us that we must give credit, or that we must execute any orders that may be offered to us, however suspicious a character the customer may be, because we have paid for permission to supply the public.

We would, in conclusion, express our conviction that any such interference with the particular mode in which individuals may see fit to carry on their business is "inconsistent with the freedom of trade, fatal to the security of property, and incompatible with the rights of the subject."

We beg, &c.

To the Chairman of the Committee on Public Houses.

(signed) *H. B. Fearon & Son.*

STATEMENT of the Landlord of the George the Fourth Hotel, *Liverpool.*

Sir,

I TAKE the liberty of addressing you touching the inquiry taking place in respect to the licensing system. I am a licensed victualler, but not one of the association, a great many of its members being monopolists. I beg leave to say the greatest evil in the trade is the large number of houses in the possession of brewers and spirit merchants. I see it has been represented to the Committee that it is different. I believe that three-fourths of the best houses are in the possession of brewers and spirit merchants. Although the law prevents any person holding more than one licence, these parties employ a servant, who gets the transfer in his name, at the same time he is obliged to sign a blank transfer paper, which can be made use of at any time it is required without his consent.

It has been stated, I believe, that there is nothing given for the licence; in a good locality the licence is reckoned the greatest value.

The house I occupy is the property of a brewer and spirit-merchant; I paid a goodwill, the only value for which is the licence. I pay fully 15 per cent. over market price for my spirits.

It has been stated that brewers serve as good ale to houses under their control as to free houses; the reverse is the fact. I know one brewer who charges 40 *s.* and 60 *s.* per barrel to his tenants, the trade price being 32 *s.* and 42 *s.*; this man has seven public-houses to my knowledge (let to tenants). I am an advocate for every man of good character being at liberty to take out a licence, subject to proper control and certain conditions. I would recommend that each applicant for a new licence should give notice of such at least 21 days previous, which would give time to inquire into his character, and, on his licence being granted, to be obliged to pay 100 *l.* to the revenue, and to pay afterwards the present annual licence. In case of transfer, to require the parties to sign such in presence of a proper officer appointed for such.

Hoping you will excuse my liberty and intrusion.

To the Chairman of the Committee on Public Houses.

INDEX.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX.

ALPHABETICAL and CLASSIFIED LIST of the PRINCIPAL HEADINGS in the following INDEX, with the Paging at which the same will be respectively found.

	PAGE
ACT 11 & 12 *VICT. c.* 49	297
Birmingham, 2	302
Bradford	303
Hull	318
Liverpool	325
ADULTERATION:	
1. *Its Extent and Character*	297
2. *Means for its Prevention*	298
Amber	298
Brewery Taps	304
Burton Ale	304
Cocculus Indicus	307
Dilution	310
Gin	313
Imports	320
Malt Tax	328
Price of Beer	334
Profits	334
Sulphate of Iron	339
BEERSHOPS:	
1. *Their Operation generally; evil Effects thereof*	301
2. *Suggested Alteration in the System of Licensing*	301
Act 12 *Charles* 2, *c.* 24, *s.* 29	297
Adulteration	297
Amber	298
Beer Act	301
Birmingham	301
Capital	305
Character of Publicans	306
Control	307
Discussions	310
Early Closing	311
Evasions of the Law	312
Inspection	320
Lancashire	322
Leeds	322
Licences	324
Manchester	328
Merthyr Tydvil, 1	330
Number of Public-houses and Beershops	331
Police	333
Price of Beer	334
Profits	334
Rural Districts	337
Sunday Closing	339
Sundays	341
Trade, The	342
Wandsworth	343
Wire, Mr. Alderman	345
Withdrawal of Licence	345

	PAGE
BIRMINGHAM:	
1. *Generally*	301
2. *Sunday Closing*	302
3. *Retail Brewers' Association*	302
Gambling	313
Board of Inland Revenue	302
BOLTON:	
1. *Generally*	302
2. *Sunday Closing*	303
Public Meetings	334
Brewers	303
Adulteration	297
Meux, Messrs.	330
Monopoly	330
Cab-drivers	304
Chatsworth	307
Coffee Shops	307
Night-houses	331
Pamphilon's Coffee-house	332
Concerts	307
Coal Hole Tavern, Strand	307
Dancing Rooms	309
Eagle Tavern, City Road	311
Control	307
Inspection	320
Police	333
Sureties	341
Crystal Palace	308
Chatsworth	307
Norwood	331
Recreation	335
Zoological Gardens, Dublin	347
DANCING ROOMS:	
1. *Generally*	309
2. *Dean-street, Soho*	310
Meux, Messrs.	330
Dilution	310
Gin	313
Drunkenness	310
Crime	308
Lancashire	322
Liverpool	325
Manchester, 3	326
Reformed Criminals	336
Saturdays	337
Sunday Closing	339
Sundays	341
Working Classes	345

PAGE

Dublin - - - - - - - 311
Grocers - - - - - - 314
Zoological Gardens, Dublin - - 347

Early Closing - - - - - 311
Edinburgh - - - - - 312
Glasgow - - - - - 313
Places of Amusement - - - 333
Scotland - - - - - 337
Sunday Closing, 3. 4. - - - 340

Evasions of the Law - - - - 312
Act 12 *Charles* 2, *c.* 24, *s.* 49 - - 297
Control - - - - - 307
Eating Houses - - - - 311
Illicit Spirits - - - - - 319
Oldham - - - - - 332
Rochdale - - - - - 336
Theatres, &c. - - - - - 342

Hanbury, Messrs. - - - - - 314
Bishop, Mr. - - - - - 302

Home Consumption - - - - 317

Inspection - - - - - - 320
Coffee Shops - - - - - 307
Control - - - - - 307
Police - - - - - - 333

Ireland - - - - - - 320
Dublin - - - - - - 311
Grocers - - - - - 314

Kew Gardens - - - - - 322

Leeds:
1. *System of Licensing* - - 322
2. *Sunday Closing objected to* - 322
3. *Botanical Gardens, &c.* - - 323
4. *Other Evidence generally* - 323
Public Meetings - - - - 334
Temperance Festivals - - - 341

Licensed Victuallers, London - - - 323

Licences:
1. *System hitherto pursued; how far defective* - - - 323
2. *Sundry Amendments suggested* 324
Beershops - - - - - 301
Birmingham, 1 - - - - 301
Board of Inland Revenue - - - 302
Brewers - - - - - - 303
Builders - - - - - 304
Coffee Shops - - - - - 307
Dancing Rooms - - - - 309
Evasions of the Law - - - 312
Leeds - - - - - 322
Lord Chamberlain - - - - 325
Merthyr Tydvil, 1 - - - - 330
Monopoly - - - - - 330
Population - - - - - 333
Quarter Sessions - - - - 335
Rating - - - - - - 335
Sureties - - - - - - 341
Suspension of Licence - - - 341
Theatres, &c. - - - - - 342
Tower Hamlets - - - - 342
Transfer of Licence - - - - 342
Vested Interests - - - - 343
Wandsworth - - - - - 343
Wholesale Dealers - - - - 345
Wire, Mr. Alderman - - - 345
Withdrawal of Licence - - - 345
Woolton, Lancashire - - - 345

Liverpool - - - - - - 325

Luton, Bedfordshire - - - - 325

PAGE

Maine Liquor Law:
1. *Its Operation in America* - 327
2. *Its Introduction into this Country recommended* - - 328
3. *Its Effect on the Public Revenue* - - - - 328
Bolton, 1 - - - - - 302
Glasgow - - - - - 313
Public Meetings - - - - 334
Revenue - - - - - - 336
United Kingdom Alliance - - - 343

Manchester:
1. *Number and Character of the Public-houses and Beershops* 328
2. *Expediency of Sunday Closing considered* - - - - 328
3. *Extent of Drunkenness* - - 329
4. *Particulars as to the Parks* - 329
5. *Other Means of Recreation provided* - - - - 329
Excursionists - - - - - 312
Licences, 1 - - - - - 325
Liverpool - - - - - 325
Museums - - - - - 330
Police - - - - - - 333
Public Meetings - - - - 334
United Kingdom Alliance - - - 343

Maraschino Act - - - - - 329
Wholesale Dealers - - - - 345

Merthyr Tydvil:
1. *Generally* - - - - - 330
2. *Sunday Closing* - - - 330
Meux, Messrs. - - - - 330

Night Houses - - - - - 331

Payment of Wages - - - - - 332

Penalties - - - - - - 332
Bond - - - - - - 303
Sureties - - - - - - 341

Places of Amusement - - - - 333
Dancing Rooms - - - - 309
Recreation - - - - - 335
Theatres, &c. - - - - - 342

Police - - - - - - - 333
Inspection - - - - - 320

Price of Beer - - - - - 334
Adulteration - - - - - 297
Hanbury, Messrs. - - - - 314

Public Meetings - - - - - 334

Recreation:
1. *Expediency of opening Places of Rational Recreation on Sunday* - - - - 335
2. *Objections thereto* - - - 335
Botanical Gardens, Dublin - - 303
Chatsworth - - - - - 307
Crystal Palace - - - - 308
Dancing Rooms - - - - 309
Eagle Tavern, City Road - - 311
Hampton Court - - - - 314
Kew Gardens - - - - 322
Leeds, 3 - - - - - 323
Leeds Rational Recreation Society - 323
Manchester, 4. 5 - - - - 329
Museums - - - - - 330
National Institutions - - - 331
Places of Amusement - - - 333
Pleasure Gardens - - - - 333
Tea Gardens - - - - - 341
Zoological Gardens, Dublin - - 347

Saturdays - - - - - - 333

PAGE

Scotland - - - - - - 337
Edinburgh - - - - - 312
Glasgow - - - - - 313

Sunday Closing:
1. *Evidence in favour of closing for the whole Day* - - 339
2. *Objections urged thereto* - 340
3. *Propositions with respect to partial closing* - - 340
4. *Recommendations of the Committee* - - - - 340

Act 11 and 12 Vict. c. 49 - - 297
Birmingham, 2 - - - - 302
Blyth (Northumberland) - - - 302
Bolton, 2 - - - - - 303
Bradford - - - - - 303
Cab-drivers - - - - - 304
Consumption - - - - - 307
Drunkenness - - - - - 310
Edinburgh - - - - - 312
Evasions of the Law - - - 312
Excursionists - - - - - 312
Glasgow - - - - - 313
Hackney - - - - - 314
Home Consumption - - - - 317
Ireland - - - - - - 320
Islington - - - - - 320
Leeds, 2 - - - - - - 322
Lodgers - - - - - - 325
Luton, Bedfordshire - - - 325
Manchester, 2 - - - - 328
Marylebone - - - - - 330
Medical Purposes - - - - 330
Merthyr Tydvil, 2 - - - - 330
Petitions - - - - - 333
Public Meetings - - - - 334
Recreation - - - - - 335
Scotland - - - - - 337
Sundays - - - - - 340
Travellers - - - - - 342

PAGE

Wives of Working Men - - - 345
Woolton, Lancashire - - - 345

Sundays - - - - - - 341
Drinking on Premises - - - 310
Drunkenness - - - - - 310
Evasions of the Law - - - 312
Recreation - - - - - 335
Sunday Closing - - - - 339

Suspension of Licence - - - - 341

Theatres, &c. - - - - - 342
Amateur Dramatic Performances - 298
Bower Saloon, Lambeth - - - 303
Eagle Tavern, City Road - - 311
Lord Chamberlain - - - - 325

Transfer of Licences - - - - 342

Travellers - - - - - - 342
Excursionists - - - - - 312

United States - - - - - 343
Maine Liquor Law - - - - 327

Wines and Spirits - - - - - 345
Gin - - - - - - 313
Grocers - - - - - - 314
Licences - - - - - 323
Maraschino Act - - - - 329
Profit - - - - - - 334

Withdrawal of Licence - - - - 345

Working Classes - - - - - 345
Cab-drivers - - - - - 304
Holidays - - - - - 317
Maine Liquor Law - - - 327
Petitions - - - - - 333
Public Meetings - - - - 334
Recreations - - - - - 335
Stone Masons - - - - 339
Stone Potters - - - - 339
Sunday Closing - - - - 339
Wives of Working Men - - - 345

5 61

I N D E X.

[*N.B.*—In this Index the *Figures* following the Names of the Witnesses refer to the Questions of the Evidence; those following *App. p.* to the paging of the Appendix; and the *Numerals* following *Rep. p.* to the paging of the Report.]

A.

ACT 12 *Charles* II., *c.* 24, *s.* 29. Reference to the power first given under this Act to sell beer at three half-pence a quart without licence, *Rep. p.* v——Treasury minute sanctioning such sale, *ib.*——Excise order thereon, *ib.*——Circumstance of good ale being often illegally sold without licence, as though it were three-halfpenny beer, *ib.* vi.

Act 11 *&* 12 *Vict., c.* 49. Testimony to the beneficial effects of the operation of this Act in closing public-houses up to one o'clock on Sunday morning, *Wood* 1089, 1090; *Balfour* 1311–1314; *Card* 1886–1888; *Cunliffe* 2308–2331; *Hunter* 2817, 2818. 2822–2827; *Hawes* 4664–4668. 4700–4705; *Rep. p.* xvi, xvii——Slight opposition offered to the passing of the Act, *Cunliffe* 2305–2307——Plan adopted by witness for ascertaining the effect of the Act over the country, *ib.* 2324–2328——Loss sustained by the trade in consequence of the closing on Sunday morning, *Stinton* 3706–3708; *Homer* 3876. 3878.

See also *Birmingham*, 2. *Bradford.* *Hull.* *Liverpool.*

Adams, Mr. Serjeant. Reference to certain suggestions by Mr. Serjeant Adams for the control of places of public amusement, *Rep. p.* xxv.

Administration of the Law. Difficulty to the police, &c. in the administration of the law so as to prevent abuses, *Weylland* 167, 168.

ADULTERATION:

1. *Its Extent and Character.*
2. *Means for its Prevention.*

1. *Its Extent and Character:*

The practice of adulterating beer is universal among publicans, *Caldwell* 1742——No agreement is made with the brewers as to the limit of the adulteration, *ib.* 1757–1759——The greater portion of publicans retail the beer as received from the brewers, *Homer* 4019. 4021——How far the brewers are interested in their beer being sold genuine, *ib.* 4041–4043. 4047. 4049–4051.

Tables delivered in and remarks thereon, showing the results of chemical analyses of stout and porter obtained from the taps of different London brewers and from the publicans, *Hassall* 4314–4322——Several modes in which beer is adulterated by the publicans, *ib.* 4325 *et seq.*—— Purpose for which a mixture of salt and flour is used by brewers, *ib.* 4330. 4333—— How far the adulteration by the publicans is unwholesome, *ib.* 4335, 4336. 4345, 4346. 4374——Coculus indicus, gentian, camomile, &c. are much used in the adulteration of beer, *ib.* 4338–4340——Limited extent to which adulteration is at present prohibited, *ib.* 4363–4365.

Out of 480 samples of beer analysed since Christmas, witness found only about one in twenty genuine, *M'Culloch* 4379, 4380——No difficulty is experienced in obtaining samples of beer as sent out by the brewers, *ib.* 4385, 4386——Slight variation in alcoholic strength in forty samples of beer, some obtained direct from the brewery and others from publicans, *ib.* 4387. 4390. 4392. 4400, 4401——Explanation as to the proof strength of Excise spirits, *ib.* 4388.

Small number of samples obtained from the publicans approaching within 20 per cent. of the genuine standard, *M'Culloch* 4390–4392——Comparative specific gravity of the beer supplied by the brewers and of that retailed by the publicans, *ib.* 4392——Impossibility of publicans meeting the extortionate demands of the brewers without having

Report, 1854—*continued.*

ADULTERATION—continued.

1. *Its Extent and Character*—continued.

recourse to adulteration, *M'Culloch* 4408-4410. 4417. 4492——Witness has never known the brewers interfere on account of adulteration, *ib.* 4451——Difficulty of prosecuting publicans for adulteration, *ib.* 4483-4485——Numerous cases of fraud against publicans as compared with beersellers, *ib.* 4465-4467. 4478. 4481, 4482——Doubts as to the adulteration rendering the beer unwholesome, *Hawes* 4569.

Beer is seldom as good at the public-house or beershop as at the brewery, *Rep. p.* vii ——*Resumé* of the evidence relative to the adulteration of beer and spirits, *ib.* viii—— The profit covers the penalties on the few cases of conviction, *ib.*

2. *Means for its Prevention:*

Suggestions with a view to prevent adulteration in general, and for the punishment of the offence on detection, *Hassall* 4356, 4357——There should be a graduated scale of porter and stouts, and a prohibition that publicans should not sell any beer under the specified strengths, *ib.* 4358-4362——How far more desirable to constitute a new tribunal, or to empower the Excise or the Board of Health to investigate cases of adulteration, *ib.* 4366, 4367——Belief that if publicans were compelled to have the porter of a stated strength it would have the effect of more easily detecting and greatly checking adulteration, *M'Culloch* 4493-4499.

Suggestion to prevent adulteration by fixing standard below which beer and spirits should not be allowed on the premises, *Rep. p.* ix——Important to have further inquiry into adulteration of food, medicines, &c. *ib.*

See also *Amber. Brewery Taps. Burton Ale. Coculus Indicus. Dilution. Gin. Imports. Malt Tax. Price of Beer. Profits. Sulphate of Iron.*

Amateur Dramatic Performances. Circumstance of the magistrates refusing to license the Free Trade Hall, at Manchester, for an amateur dramatic performance, under the management of Mr. Charles Dickens, for the benefit of the Guild of Literature and Art; reason for the refusal, *Richardson* 3616, 3617.

Amber. Amber is supplied by the small brewers as beer; description of this article, *Homer* 4024, 4025. 4049-4053——Manner in which amber is made; it is extensively used by publicans to mix with the beer, *M'Culloch* 4402-4407.

America. See *Maine Liquor Law. United States.*

Amusements. See *Crystal Palace. Dancing Rooms. Places of Amusement. Recreation. Theatres, &c. Zoological Gardens, Dublin.*

B.

Balfour, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been for upwards of fourteen years engaged in making investigations for various societies as to the social and moral habits of the working classes, 1144, 1145——Great extent to which public-houses are habitually frequented on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday evenings by the working classes, 1146-1149. 1153——Injurious system of paying workmen their wages at public-houses, 1150-1152——Regulations for the prevention of disorderly conduct at Odd Fellows' Lodges, 1154-1156——The landlords of public-houses do not generally interfere to prevent drunkenness, 1157, 1158——Pernicious effects of intemperate habits, 1159-1161—— Excessive drinking at public-houses where such attractions as concerts, &c. are provided, 1162-1165.

Appreciation of rational amusements by the working classes, without the objectionable excitement of drink, 1166-1172. 1279-1282. 1415, 1416——Taste of the working people for theatrical representations adverted to, 1172-1176. 1436——Improvement generally in the taste and habits of the people, 1177——Particulars as to the population, amount of wages, and habits of the working classes, included in a survey, made by witness under Mr. Fletcher in St. George's-in-the-East in 1845, for the Statistical Society, 1177-1187——Temperate and orderly conduct of the German sugar bakers adverted to, 1182. 1442-1447——Large number of public-houses and gin-palaces in St. George's-in-the-East, 1187-1191.

Witness also made a survey of the Rookery (a street running behind New Oxford-street) in 1847-48; 1193——Class of persons in this district, 1193-1200——Belief that half of them have brought themselves into their present degraded state by drunkenness, 1201——No means are taken by the landlords in this district to remove known bad characters from their houses, 1202-1205——The police have no authority to enter a public-house unless there is a disturbance, 1207-1210——Advantage of inspectors being appointed

Balfour, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

appointed to supervise public-houses, 1211, 1212——Some publicans are desirous of having more time on Sunday, 1213.

Apprehension felt by publicans of informations being laid by the police for disorderly conduct in their houses, 1214–1216——Circumstance of liquors having been sold on Sunday mornings at a house in Charles street, Drury-lane, adverted to, 1217, 1218——Evils of music and dancing being allowed at public-houses, 1219–1228——Immoral tendency of the Eagle Tavern in the City-road; amusements and attractions at this place; class of persons attending, 1230 *et seq.* 1253——This house obtained a spirit licence and a licence for music, and has been established for many years, 1245–1251——Cremorne Gardens, and the Manor Gardens, Camberwell, have licences for spirits as well as for music and dancing, 1254–1261——Mr. Conquest is the present lessee of the Eagle Tavern, 1262–1264.

Immoral character of the singing, &c. at the Coalhole Tavern, in the Strand; class of persons frequenting it, 1265–1269. 1279——Immoral character of the Shades, formerly a licensed house in the Adelphi; it has now ceased to exist, 1270–1275. 1279——Large quantity of liquor drank at the Coalhole, 1276–1280.

Comparison of the habits of French and English labourers, as observed by witness in France in 1830; orderly character of the former, 1282–1295——Drunkenness of the English labourers employed in the construction of the railway from Havre to Rouen adverted to, 1282. 1289–1294——Partial success of witness in inducing these labourers to join temperance societies, 1298–1300——Success of the Rational Recreation Society at Leeds adverted to, 1301, 1302. 1411–1414——Belief that public-houses would be much less frequented had the people increased facilities for rational amusements, 1301–1303. 1308, 1309.

Difficulty of reforming women of drunken habits, 1303–1305——The greatest amount of drunkenness is in the male population, 1306, 1307——Large number of working people and mechanics who make excursions down the canal to Groundford-green on Sundays, 1309, 1310——Public-houses should only be open for a limited time on Sundays, 1311. 1315–1318——Beneficial effect of the closing up to one o'clock, 1311–1314——Witness has been a teetotaller for sixteen years, 1318, 1319——Class of persons who would be likely to oppose the closing of public-houses on Sunday, 1320–1322.

Admirable manner in which Mr. Pamphilon conducted a coffee-house in Sherrard-street, Soho; he has now retired, having made a fortune, 1323–1325——This coffee-house was used by all classes, 1326–1329——Increased number of coffee-houses during the last twenty-five years, 1330–1332——Some coffee-houses that are kept open all night are badly conducted, 1333–1335. 1351——Advantage of coffee-houses being registered and subject to certain regulations, 1336–1344——Description of games allowed at coffee-houses, 1339——Respectable coffee-house-keepers would not object to pay a small duty for a licence, 1345–1347——Coffee-houses should be subject to the supervision of the police, 1343. 1350. 1442–1444——Beneficial tendency of coffee-houses by reason of the literature supplied to the customers, 1348, 1349.

Particulars as to the population, pursuits, &c. of the inhabitants of Pavenham, Bedfordshire, 1352, 1353——Extreme ignorance of the people at this place, 1353, 1354——Great extent to which opium eating is indulged in by the women, 1357. 1417–1421——Demoralizing influence of the large number of licensed houses and beerhouses in proportion to the population of Pavenham, 1355–1360. 1429, 1430——Excessive drinking, particularly on Sunday evening, 1356, 1357. 1361–1365.

High moral character of the inhabitants of the village of Old Warden, Bedfordshire, the property of Lord Ongley, 1366–1373——There is but one public-house in the village, which is kept by the steward of Lord Ongley, and subject to his lordship's supervision; amusements there provided for the people, 1366–1372——The employment of the people at Old Warden is purely agricultural, 1379.

Attention paid by witness to the drinking houses at Luton, Bedfordshire, 1380, 1381——Population of this place; large proportion of females, a great number of whom are employed in the straw bonnet trade, 1381–1383. 1385——The high moral character of the females at Luton is to be attributed to the provisions made in a religious and scholastic point of view, 1384–1386. 1403——Total number of public-houses and beer-shops at Luton, 1385, 1386. 1390——Witness reported to the authorities one beerhouse which he discovered to be used as a brothel, 1386–1389——Belief that the inhabitants of Luton are more temperate than many towns of equal population; causes to which this is attributable, 1391–1393. 1403–1405——Attention paid to the morals of the working classes, 1392, 1393——Ample provision is made for public worship; the churches and chapels are well attended, 1394–1397——Ample provision made for education, 1398–1402——The beershop-keepers at Luton generally follow some trade independently of their beerhouse, 1406–1408.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Balfour, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Beneficial tendency of education being encouraged and the recreation of the people being promoted, 1410——Class of persons frequenting the beerhouses in the town of Bedford, 1425, 1426——Beneficial tendency of the cultivation of a taste for good theatrical amusements, 1436-1438——Public-houses in the vicinity of theatres should be closed much earlier than at present, 1439-1441——Terms of admission to the judge-and-jury clubs, 1445, 1446——Temperate habits of the majority of the Jews adverted to, 1447-1452.

[Second Examination.]—Particulars relative to the Bower Saloon, Lambeth; character of the performances, conduct of the visitors, &c., 4734 *et seq.*——Difficulty of clearing the public-houses in the neighbourhood at twelve o'clock on Saturday, 4738-4740——Theatres of the same description as the Bower Saloon in other parts of London are well attended, 4748-4750——Circumstance of spirits, &c. being supplied to the loose characters at places in Piccadilly and the Haymarket after twelve o'clock on Saturday night, 4751, 4752——Evils of public-houses being open till twelve o'clock on Saturday night, 4752, 4753——Great rush of persons into the public-houses at one o'clock on Sundays, 4754-4758.

Disorderly character of the people in the public-houses and beershops in the vicinity of Old-street-road and Goswell-street on Sunday afternoon, 4759-4761——Reference to discussions held at beershops on Sunday evenings, 4759. 4763, 4764——Advantage of entirely closing public-houses on Sunday, 4762-4768. 4798——Attractions at the Eagle tavern and gardens, City-road, on Sundays; large number of visitors, terms of admission, &c., &c., 4768-4772. 4794-4813——There are several other places of this description in different parts of London, 4773, 4774——National benefits anticipated from closing public-houses, &c. on Sundays, and throwing open places of rational recreation, 4775, 4776. 4816-4818——Large amount of drunkenness on Sunday evenings, 4777-4783——Immorality occasioned by drinking on Sunday, 4779.

Number of persons who attended the Leeds temperance festivals in each of the years 1850-1854; charge for admission, and amount of profit to the society, 4788——Large number of persons who attended the temperance festivals in the Zoological Gardens, Bristol, 4788——Orderly character of the large number of persons attending the temperance fête at the Surrey Zoological Gardens last year; no intoxicating drinks were allowed, 4789-4793——Demoralising effects of connecting the sale of strong drinks with the amusements of the people, 4812, 4813.

Baylee, Rev. John Tyrrell. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Clergyman of the Church of England, 210——Is clerical secretary to the Lord's Day Observance Society, 211. 213——Object of this society, 212——Demoralising effect on the working classes of public-houses being open on Sunday, 214-218. 271——There are a greater number of cases of drunkenness in cities and provincial towns on Sunday than any other day, 219-227——Metropolitan Police Return delivered in, showing the number of persons taken into custody for drunkenness, distinguishing those taken on Sunday, for the years 1838 to 1844; 219-225——Extract from tables, showing the decrease of drunkenness at Manchester since the operation of the Act of 1847; observations thereon, 227, 228——Large number of complaints against landlords at Manchester for offences committed on Sunday, 228-230——Return of the number of cases of drunkenness at Liverpool, distinguishing those taken during Sunday, for the years 1841 to 1844; 230.

Letters received by witness in 1853 from the Superintendents of Police at Birmingham, Hull, Derby, Liverpool, and Bradford, showing the benefits resulting from the partial closing of public-houses on Sunday, 230-232——Injurious effects of the beerhouses being open on Sunday in rural districts, 233, 234——Slight inconvenience to the working population by closing public-houses on Sunday, except to lodgers and travellers, 235, 236——Difficulty of making the distinction as regards travellers, 237-244——It would be an improvement on the present system if drinking were disallowed on the premises during Sunday, 245-248——Impossibility of enforcing such a regulation as regards hotels and houses with *bonâ fide* lodgers, 249.

Favourable feeling of the working classes generally towards the proposed measure for closing public-houses on Sunday, 249-252——Probability of the illegal sale of beer and spirits in eating-houses, if public-houses were closed on Sunday, 253-256——Suggested control over beershops by means of some independent Board, 257, 258——Objections to the recreations of the working classes on Sunday involving labour on the part of others, 259-261——Holidays of the working classes adverted to, 261-264.

Reference to an Act lately passed for the better regulation of public-houses in Scotland, 266-270——Excessive drinking in Edinburgh on Sundays previous to this Act, 271-274——The same restrictions should be imposed in England as in Scotland with regard to Sunday, 275-280——Slight opposition to the passing of the Scotch Act, 276-280——Advantage of publicans being a more respectable class, 281-284.

Bedford,

555

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Bedford. Reference to the class of persons frequenting the beerhouses in the town of Bedford, *Balfour* 1425, 1426.

Beer Act. Evil effects of the Beer Act adverted to, *Cunliffe* 2449, 2450; *Stinton* 3753–3758——Belief that the Beer Act does not extend to Ireland; all public-houses there are licensed, *Haughton* 2555, 2556——Reference to the Report of the Lords' Committee in 1850 on the Beer Act, *Rep. p.* ix, x.——*See* also *Petitions.*

Beershops:

1. *Their Operation generally; evil Effects thereof.*
2. *Suggested Alterations in the System of Licensing.*

1. *Their Operation generally; evil Effects thereof:*

Greater amount of drunkenness and bad conduct generally in a certain class of beershops than in licensed houses, *Weylland* 82–94. 101–105——Impossibility of the numerous beershops getting a living in a legitimate manner, *ib.* 165, 166——Evils of the low beerhouses; low class of persons frequenting them, *Glass* 517–519; *Howarth* 2039–2041; *Wright* 2113–2115——Exercise of the authority of the magistrates over beerhouses, *Glass* 557–564——Beerhouses close at twelve o'clock at night, *ib.* 565——Temptation of the cheap beer sold at spirit vaults; quality of this beer, *Cunliffe* 2451–2455——Slight difficulty of getting rid of beershops, as compared with licensed houses, *ib.* 2483–2485——Evil effects of the lower class of beerhouses, as incentives to crime, &c., *Neilson* 3210, 3211. 3221——Serious character of the offences brought against some beerhouse-keepers, *James* 3253–3256.

Original grounds for the establishment of beershops, *Rep. p.* ix——Opinion of the Lords' Committee of 1849–50 that the beershop system has failed, *ib.*——There are numerous beerhouses well conducted, *ib.* x——The fewer licensed victuallers, the more beershops there are, *ib.* xi.

2. *Suggested Alterations in the System of Licensing:*

Disapproval of the facility with which a beer licence can be obtained, *Hutton* 1501, 1502——Inconvenience to beershop-keepers in the difficulty of obtaining a licence for spirits; advantage of such licence being granted, *Jackson* 2727–2743; *Hunter* 2803–2805——Recommendation that beerhouses be licensed upon the same system as public-houses, and that there be the same active control over each, *Wren* 2928–2930. 2940–2944. 2948, 2949. 2957–2960. 2991–2995——Suggested alteration with a view to reduce the number of low beerhouses, *Neilson* 3188–3191.

Disapproval of the present system of licensing beerhouses as tending to encourage vice, *James* 3245——Objection to the facility with which beer licences are obtained; they should be granted by the magistrates, *Spirett* 3501–3504——The licences should not be granted by the Excise, *Stinton* 3761, 3762. 3829——Difficulty and expense of bringing a case against a beerhouse-keeper before the Excise, *ib.* 3852——Requisite certificate for a beerhouse licence; no inquiry is made by the Excise as to the character of the applicants, *M'Culloch* 4468–4470——Non-distinction between licences would not necessarily abolish beerhouses, *Hawes* 4624, 4625.

Circumstances under which beerhouse-keepers' licences are granted by the Excise, *Rep. p.* iv——The Excise have no power over beershop licences, but on notice of conviction by magistrates, *ib.* ix——Beershops are, at present, driven to attract custom by practices injurious to morality, *ib.* x——The hope of obtaining a licence increases the number of beershops, *ib.* xi——Recommended abolition of the distinction between the beerhouse and the public-house licence, *ib.* xi, xii.

See also *Act* 12 *Charles* II., *c.* 24, *s.* 29. *Adulteration. Amber. Beer Act. Birmingham. Capital. Character of Publicans. Control. Discussions. Early Closing. Evasions of the Law. Inspection. Lancashire. Leeds. Licences. Manchester. Merthyr Tydvil,* 1. *Number of Public-houses and Beershops. Police. Price of Beer. Profits. Rural Districts. Sunday Closing. Sundays. Trade, The. Wandsworth. Wire, Mr. Alderman. Withdrawal of Licence.*

Billiard Rooms. Evil of licensing billiard-rooms at beerhouses, &c. to be kept open after the hours of closing for the sale of beer, &c., *Rep. p.* xxiv——Opinion of the Committee that such rooms shall be closed at the same hour as the public-house or beershop, *ib.*

Birmingham:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Sunday Closing.*
3. *Retail Brewers' Association.*

1. *Generally:*

The majority of the publicans and beersellers in Birmingham brew their own beer, *Jackson* 2699. 2775–2778; *Stinton* 3767——There are nearly 1,100 beershop-keepers,

BIRMINGHAM—continued.

1. *Generally*—continued.

Jackson 2700——Attractions and character of the beerhouses, *ib.* 2720–2724. 2745——Recreation of the working classes, *ib.* 2757——Working men in attending beerhouses are seldom accompanied by their wives and families, *ib.* 2758–2762.

Witness is not aware of any violation of the law with regard to the rating of beershops in Birmingham, *Hunter* 2844–2853——Evidence in refutation of a statement made by Mr. Beggs before the Committee of last Session as to the disorderly character of witness's house; letter from the superintendent of police in support thereof, *Phillips* 3074——Orderly character of the large number of persons who visited the Vauxhall Gardens, Birmingham, on Whit-Sunday, *Stinton* 3709. 3718——Practice with regard to granting licences; belief that favouritism is of very rare occurrence, and that general satisfaction is given by the magistrates, *ib.* 3770. 3773-3776. 3782, 3783——There were 1,050 beerhouses in 1853, *ib.* 3778.

Large proportion of public-houses and beerhouses in Birmingham as compared with other trades, *Stinton* 3794, 3795. 3797——Small number of licences granted by the magistrates in proportion to the applications, *ib.* 3820——There are many beerhouses for the illegal sale of liquors, *ib.* 3827–3829——Houses are frequently rated higher than their value in order to qualify them for beerhouses, *ib.* 3840.

2. *Sunday Closing:*

Letter received by witness in 1853 from the superintendent of police, showing the benefits resulting from the partial closing of public-houses on Sunday, *Baylee* 230–232——Practice in regard to closing on Sundays and weekdays; alterations suggested, *Jackson* 2691–2695. 2771–2773——Slight amount of drinking on Sunday evenings, *ib.* 2753–2756——Witness does not open his house till six o'clock in the afternoon, *ib.* 2765–2767——He has never had any difficulty in clearing at eleven o'clock, *ib.* 2774. 2779.

Witness keeps an eating-house and beershop; has a large business on Sundays, *Hunter* 2783–2795. 2834–2836——Hours during which beer is mostly sold on Sunday, *ib.* 2785. 2789——Witness has never been taken before the magistrates during the twenty-two years he has kept a beerhouse, *ib.* 2785. 2787——It is not the practice in Birmingham to close after half-past twelve on Sunday, *ib.* 2786——Different tradesmen whose shops are open on Sunday morning, *ib.* 2796–2801.

3. *Retail Brewers' Association:*

Two hundred of the beersellers in Birmingham are members of the association, *Jackson* 2700. 2750——Objects of the original and present association; amount of the subscriptions, *ib.* 2725. 2746, 2747——It has existed for ten years; its effect on the beersellers, *ib.* 2748, 2749.

See also *Gambling.*

Bishop, Mr. Denial by Mr. Robert Hanbury of certain statements made before a former Committee by Mr. Bishop, *Homer* 4012.

Blyth (*Northumberland*). Result of a canvass of thirty-five public-houses and beershops at Blyth, with a view to closing on Sunday, *Cunliffe* 2361, 2362.

Board of Inland Revenue. Suggestion that licences be granted by the Board of Inland Revenue on application under a proper system of inspection, *Richardson* 3641–3644——The Excise are obliged to grant a licence upon a magistrate's certificate, *M'Culloch* 4459–4461——Excisemen have power to enter beershops, but not coffeeshops, without a licence, except by special warrant, *ib.* 4479, 4480.

BOLTON:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Sunday Closing.*

1. *Generally:*

Beer is principally consumed by the inhabitants in the way of tippling, and not at meals, *Cunliffe* 2373, 2374. 2509——Large number of persons who have taken the pledge, *ib.* 2377——A mechanics' institute has been for several years established, *ib.* 2384——A free library has also been lately established; particulars relative thereto, *ib.* 2384. 2392–2396. 2399. 2402——Class of reading patronized by the working people, *ib.* 2388–2391.

Number of public-houses and beerhouses, and number of convictions against them last year, *Cunliffe* 2419–2422——Efficiency of the police force to exercise a vigilant superintendence, *ib.* 2423–2426——Population and number of convictions for drunkenness last year, *ib.* 2429–2431——Numerous cases of drunkenness included in the convictions for assaults, &c., *ib.* 2431–2433.

Large

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Bolton—continued.

1. *Generally*—continued.

Large number of the ratepayers who signed a memorial to the magistrates, praying that no new licences should be granted, and also for the gradual prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, *ib.* 2462-2468——Class of persons who hold the public-houses, *ib.* 2477-2479——No public-houses have been licensed since the presentation of the memorial eight years ago; increased number of beerhouses during that time, *ib.* 2480-2482——Rarity of a third conviction in Bolton, *ib.* 2504.

2. *Sunday Closing:*

Particulars of a report from the superintendent of police at Bolton as to the beneficial effects of the Act for closing till one o'clock on Sunday, *Cunliffe* 2334-2337——The publicans are divided in opinion upon the subject of closing for the whole day, *ib.* 2360-2364——The majority of the working classes are in favour of closing, *ib.* 2365, 2366. 2378-2381——There is at present but one public-house closed on Sunday, *ib.* 2369.

Slight inconvenience to the bulk of the people if all the houses were closed, *Cunliffe* 2370-2372. 2375, 2376——The chief offence brought against publicans is for selling liquors at unlawful hours on Sunday *ib.* 2427, 2428——Statement of the number of persons in twelve public-houses and twelve beershops in Bolton, between eight and nine o'clock on Sunday the 4th of June 1854, *ib.* 2506, and *App. p.* 287——Return of the penalties and costs for violation of the Act by publicans and beersellers, during the year ending 3 June 1854, *App. p.* 286, 287.

See also *Public Meetings.*

Bond. Advantage of greater facilities being afforded for the recovery of the bond put in suit by the Excise, *Neilson* 3235——Resolution, that every person, previous to obtaining a licence, should himself give bond, and find two sureties to be bound with him, for the due observance of the law and conditions upon which the licence shall be granted, *Rep. p.* xxvi.

Botanical Gardens, Dublin. Advantage of these gardens being open on Sunday, *Haughton* 2522, 2523.

Bower Saloon, Lambeth. Description of the performances at the Bower Saloon (a theatre licensed by the Lord Chamberlain), prices of admission, and number and character of the audience, *Balfour* 4734-4737. 4745. 4747——Number of the audience who, after the performance, frequent a drinking-house which communicates by a passage with the theatre; this house is not kept by the proprietor of the theatre, *ib.* 4737. 4741. 4744-4746. 4784-4788——Bad character generally of the people in the public-houses in the vicinity of the theatre on Saturday night, *ib.* 4737-4740——Difficulty of clearing these houses at 12 o'clock on Saturday, *ib.* 4738-4740.

Bowthorpe, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Coach-painter at Brixton, 836, 837——Belief that mechanics would approve of public-houses being closed on Sunday, 838, 839. 841-843——Large number of the working classes who are unable to resist the temptation of drinking to excess on Saturday evening, 839, 840. 852-869——Opinion that the working classes would not be inconvenienced by public-houses being closed on Sunday, 844-851. 887. 909-912——It is the custom in witness's trade to adjourn to a public-house after the receipt of wages on Saturday night, 852-869——Most of witness's fellow workmen have comfortable homes, 863-866.

Temptations of a public-house on Sunday evening, 867, 868. 877——If public-houses were closed on Sunday, coffee-houses would be more resorted to, 869, 870——Growing improvement in the habits of the working classes; causes to which attributable, 871-876. 895——Beer purchased on Saturday will keep sufficiently fresh, if bottled, for Sunday's consumption, 878-886——Witness objects, on principle, to public-houses being open on Sundays, 888-890. 912——Belief that the number of teetotallers amongst the working classes is increasing, 891-894——Advantage of public-houses being closed at 10 o'clock on Saturday night, 896-904——Difficulty of preventing liquors being drank on the premises if allowed to be sold at certain times, 905-908.

Bradford. Letter received by witness in 1853 from the superintendent of police at Bradford, showing the benefits resulting from the partial closing of public-houses on Sunday, *Baylee*, 230-232.——*See* also *United Kingdom Alliance.*

Brewers. Witness is not aware of any brewer's house in the metropolis being closed on Sunday, *Glass* 538-540——Evidence as to the evils of the system of brewers being frequently proprietors of public-houses in the metropolis, and of their having the tenants completely under their influence, *Caldwell* 1752-1755. 1760-1764; *M'Culloch* 4409 *et seq.*; *Hawes* 4508-4533——Belief that the number of houses belonging to brewers is over estimated, *Homer* 4008——Few houses in London under the influence of the brewers, *ib.* 4012, 4013. 4020——Lucrative character of the business of a brewer, independently

Brewers—continued.

independently of the gains realised through the partial system of licensing, *M'Culloch* 4489.

Loans from the brewer to the publican adverted to, *Hawes* 4524-4528——The publican is obliged to have his beer from the brewer to whom he is indebted, *ib.* 4527-4531——No distinction is made with regard to houses belonging to brewers, with respect to supervision by the police, *ib.* 4534. 4536, 4537——It is to the advantage of the brewers to have those houses in which they are interested well conducted; difficulty of insuring this in low neighbourhoods, *ib.* 4535, 4536——The brewers are more interested in the quantity of beer consumed than in the quality of the article supplied, *ib.* 4537-4542——Importance attached by the brewers to the present system of licensing, *ib.* 4580, 4581——Slight extent to which the brewers would be affected by Sunday closing, *ib.* 4663.

Statement and suggestions by a brewer of thirty years' experience, *App. p.* 290, 291——Evils of the control of brewers over public-houses, *ib.* 290——Statement by the landlord of the George the Fourth Hotel, Liverpool, relative to the evils of the control exercised by the brewers over the publicans, *ib.* 292.

Reference to the Report of the Committee of 1817 on subject of brewers and licences, *Rep. p.* x——Number of licences in the hands of brewers adverted to, *ib.*

See also *Adulteration. Meux, Messrs. Monopoly.*

Brewery Taps. Stout and porter procured at the taps of the breweries are of greater average strength than those obtained from publicans, *Hassall* 4307-4310. 4313-4317. 4321, 4322——Belief that beer sold at the brewery taps is not generally genuine; the tap is quite distinct from the brewery, *ib.* 4310.

Bryon, Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Stone potter, residing in Lambeth, 1008, 1009——Has been a teetotaller for 10 years, 1010——Large majority of the men working at the same pottery with witness who are in favour of public-houses being closed on Sunday; character of the objectors, 1011-1020. 1022-1026. 1035, 1036. 1068——No inconvenience would be felt if they were allowed to be open from one to three o'clock, 1021——Intemperate habits of many of the men at the pottery, 1022, 1023. 1042-1044——Witness has endeavoured to induce them to discontinue frequenting public-houses on Sunday, 1027-1031——Beneficial influence of temperance societies on the working classes, 1032-1034——Advantage of paying workmen on Friday, 1037-1041. 1081, 1082.

Beneficial effect of closing public-houses on Sunday as regards the working classes generally, 1045, 1046. 1054, 1055. 1069——Large proportion of juvenile depravity and delinquency attributable to the drunken habits of parents, 1047-1053. 1060-1064——Improved character of persons who have been induced to abstain from intoxicating drinks, 1056-1058——Belief that habits of drinking are mainly propagated by frequenting public-houses on Sunday evenings, 1059——Disreputable character of persons frequenting public-houses in Lambeth on Sunday, 1060-1067——Disapproval of places of recreation involving labour being open on Sunday, 1070-1077. 1083——Public-houses in Lambeth are frequently open after twelve o'clock on Saturday night, 1078——Working hours in the pottery, 1079, 1080.

Builders. The majority of the applications for licences are made by or through the builders of the houses with a view to increased saleable value, *Hawes* 4641-4647.

Burton Ale. Extensive use of gentian or camomiles by the brewers at Bristol in brewing "Burton" ale, *Hassall* 4340.

C.

Cab-Drivers. Witness is a cab-driver and proprietor, *Powell* 913-915——Has been a teetotaller for five years; number of cab-drivers who are total abstainers, *ib.* 917-921——Great extent to which dram drinking is practised among cabmen, *ib.* 922——Total number of cabs; proportion taking out a licence for six days, *ib.* 924-928——Mode in which the inconvenience arising from the closing of public-houses on Sunday would be met by cabmen, *ib.* 929, 930. 947——It is the wish of many cab-drivers that public-houses should be closed altogether on Sunday, and earlier on weekdays, *ib.* 931-933. 946. 989, 990——The six-day cabs have been the means of greatly improving the drivers without detriment to the proprietors, *ib.* 934-941. 948-953. 970-974.

Public-houses being open on Sunday is a great temptation to cab drivers, *Powell* 942-945. 965, 966——Rate of duty paid for cab licences, *ib.* 954, 955. 1000, 1001——The number of cabs have diminished since the last Act; number plying on Sunday, *ib.* 956-958——Six-day cab-masters and their men generally make Sunday a day of rest, *ib.* 959. 969——There is no actual necessity for cabmen taking spirits in inclement weather, *ib.* 960-964——Manner in which cabmen are paid, *ib.* 991, 992——Six day cabs are more

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Cab-Drivers—continued.

more profitable both to the drivers and proprietors than those working on Sundays, *Powell* 993-999. 1002.

Caldwell, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Proprietor of a licensed establishment for dancing in Dean-street, Soho, 1571-1578——Has been twice fined by the Excise for receiving a profit on refreshments brought in from a public-house, 1579-1581. 1588, 1589——Grounds upon which witness's application for a spirit licence was refused, 1582-1590——Inconvenience to dancing establishments in not having a licence to supply the company with refreshments, 1592-1594. 1600. 1605-1608. 1623-1626. 1678——Belief that the sale of spirits would not endanger the orderly conduct of the assembly, 1595. 1601——Witness holds a public-house belonging to Messrs. Meux & Co., in Dean-street, but the business is carried on by, and the licence taken out in the name of, his sister, 1595-1598.

No case of drunkenness has occurred in the assembly-room, 1603, 1604——The law does not prevent liquors being consumed on the premises, 1609. 1678——There would be no objection on the part of proprietors of dancing rooms to pay for a licence to supply refreshments exclusively to their customers, 1610. 1636, 1637. 1662-1665. 1791——Class of persons attending witness's rooms, 1610. 1647. 1658-1661——Course pursued for the exclusion of objectionable persons, 1611, 1612. 1627-1629. 1648-1652——Belief that if tea and coffee only were supplied the company would go out to the public-houses, 1613, 1614. 1623-1626——Average number of persons attending the rooms, 1615——Average quantity of refreshments consumed by them, 1616-1622——Circumstance of a policeman refusing to come into witness's rooms until an assault had been committed, 1630-1635——Beneficial effects of dancing rooms being registered and power being given to call in the police to keep order, 1638-1641——Popularity of dancing as an amusement of the working classes, 1642-1646.

Hours during which witness's dancing saloon is open, 1653-1655——Accommodation on the premises for refreshments, &c., 1656, 1657——Belief that taking out a beer licence would entail closing the rooms at 11 o'clock, 1667, 1668——Possibility of witness now obtaining a spirit licence if he tried, 1670-1677——Practice of other dancing saloons with regard to refreshments and licences, 1680-1684——The public-house kept by witness's sister, and the dancing rooms, are distinct premises, 1685-1688——Reason why witness has not renewed his application for a licence, 1689, 1690.

The houses in the neighbourhood of Dean-street chiefly belong to Messrs. Meux & Co., 1692——Particulars relative to the house kept by witness's sister, and owned by Messrs. Meux; agreement with the latter to sell their beer only, 1693-1710——Late rise in the price of witness's beer adverted to, as putting it in his power to supply a better article; impossibility of supplying unadulterated beer at 3 *d.* a pot, 1710-1722. 1739. 1745-1751——Explanation as to his practice of "dashing" the beer or adding water to it, 1720. 1726-1738. 1741——The practice of adulterating beer is universal among the publicans, 1742——Independent houses require to know the strength of the beer, and are supplied at a lower rate than brewers' houses, 1752-1755——No agreement is made with the brewers as to the limit of the adulteration, 1757-1759——Manner in which the brewer is interested in the quality of the beer sold by the publicans, 1760-1764.

Process of fining the beer explained, 1765——Necessity of witness "dashing" the gin as well as the beer, inasmuch as he pays 12 *s.* a gallon for it, and sells it at 10 *s.* 8 *d.*, 1766-1773——Witness's public-house is closed till one o'clock, and from three to half-past four on Sundays; small number of persons attending, 1774, 1775. 1780-1782——Use to which the dancing saloon is occasionally put on Sundays, 1776-1779——Manner in which the frequenters of the theatre in Dean-street are supplied with refreshments, 1785-1790——Willingness of witness, and other proprietors of dancing rooms, to be responsible for the good order of their establishments if licences be granted to them, 1791, 1792.

Capital. Requisite capital for opening a public-house, *Maber* 378-382——Low class of persons opening beershops in consequence of the trifling capital required, *Maber* 383, 384. 416. 425; *Stinton* 3763——The capital employed in public-houses induces their good conduct, *Glass* 554.

Card, Nathaniel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Treasurer of the United Kingdom Alliance for the total suppression of the traffic in all intoxicating liquors as beverages, 1793, 1794. 1974-1976——Steps taken for furthering the objects of the association by means of lectures and meetings; results thereof, 1795 *et seq.* 1889-1893——The association has only been formed twelve months, 1807 ——Advantage of public-houses being closed on Sundays, 1809-1811. 1813——Result of Dr. Lees' inquiry as to the operation of the Maine law in America, 1816-1820——Prizes offered by the association for essays on the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, 1817——Circumstance of several brewers being members of the association, 1822, 1823. 1825——No pledge of total abstinence is required from members, 1824.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Card, Nathaniel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

The majority of habitual drunkards wish the temptation to drink removed, 1825–1829. 1954——Circumstance of the governor of New York having vetoed the Bill for prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors after it had passed through the Legislature, 1831, 1832——Number of American States that have adopted the Maine law, 1833–1836——Data upon which witness concludes that the revenue would not be diminished by the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, 1837–1845——Beneficial effects of the public-houses being closed on Sundays at Edinburgh, 1846–1855——Small proportion of the total cases of drunkenness in Manchester which are brought before the magistrates, 1858–1869——Number of public-houses and beerhouses in Manchester, and number and nature of complaints against them respectively, 1869, 1870. 1874——The population of Manchester is about 330,000; 1871.

Means by which the association has ascertained the number of visits to public-houses in Manchester on Sundays during the lawful hours for the sale of liquors, 1875–1883——Belief that the public-houses in Manchester are much frequented on Sunday mornings, 1884, 1885——Beneficial operation of the law prohibiting the sale of liquors on Sunday mornings, 1886–1888——Cases of riotous drunkenness calling for the interposition of the police are much more numerous in Liverpool than Manchester, 1894–1900.

Possibility of enforcing (with the consent of the people) a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in Great Britain, 1904–1910. 1977——Practicability of closing public-houses altogether on Sunday; such a measure would greatly decrease drunkenness, 1911–1917, 1958. 1961. 1970. 1971–1973——Sufficiency of the present facilities for rational recreation of the people on Sundays, 1918, 1919——Habits of reformed drunkards adverted to, 1920–1922——Belief that drunkenness is on the increase, 1923–1927——Slight facilities in the state of Maine for private distillation, 1928——Manner of supplying liquors for medicinal purposes in the States of America under the Maine law, 1929——Beneficial effect of the adoption of the Maine law in the American States, 1931–1936——Large proportion of crime attributable to drunkenness; opinion of the judges on this point, 1937, 1938. 1949–1953.

Belief that total abstinence is the only security against drunkenness, 1954–1957——Recommendation that public-houses be opened later on Monday mornings, 1959, 1960——Plan adopted in Scotland for preventing evasions of the law, with regard to the sale of liquors on Sunday, 1962–1965——Power of the police to enter public-houses or beerhouses at any time, 1966——Circumstance of the sale of liquors being prohibited on certain estates, and altogether in thirty-six parishes in Scotland, with excellent results, 1978, 1979——How far the restrictions in Scotland, as to re-action on Sunday, tend to increase drunkenness, 1980–1982.

Casinos. See *Dancing Rooms. Holborn Casino.*

Chamen, Richard Tewkesbury. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Licensed victualler and proprietor, in Windmill-street, Tottenham Court Road, 578, 579——Has closed altogether on Sunday for the last seven years, from conscientious motives, 580–583. 697——Belief that he has not sustained any loss in consequence, 584–586. 607–611——Slight inconvenience to the customers who purchase their beer for Sunday on Saturday night, 587–589. 695, 699——Beer will keep very well for a day if put into bottles and properly corked and kept air-tight, 590–594. 671–673——Witness's house is independent of the brewer, and is the only house in the neighbourhood that is closed on Sunday, 598——Feeling of the publicans in the neighbourhood on the subject, 598–601——Belief that the total consumption of beer would not be lessened by the houses being closed on Sunday, 602–604. 612–614——Better class of customers in consequence of closing on Sunday, 605——Slight inconvenience to the public generally if the houses were closed on Sunday, 616. 666, 667——Evil effects of public-houses being open on Sunday evening, 618–620. 656, 657. 659——If they were open from one to three o'clock; it would answer all the requirements of a neighbourhood, 621. 679.

Class and number of persons who are consumers respectively of beer and spirits, 622–636——Expediency of all beershops, as well as public-houses, being closed on Sunday, 637–641. 643–647. 654, 655——How far the closing on Sunday might occasion the illegal sale of liquors, 648–653——Many of the common people are favourable to entire closing on Sunday, 660–663——Some exception should be made in favour of travellers, and also of lodgers in public-houses, 664, 665. 668–670. 693, 694——Rarity of spirits being sold on Sunday for medical purposes, 676–678——Witness decidedly recommends closing for the whole day, 679——Advisableness of closing earlier on week days, 680–692——Excessive drinking generally takes place after ten o'clock, 680–684.

Character of Publicans. Advantage of publicans being of a respectable class, *Weylland* 155–163; *Baylee* 281–284; *Spirton* 3766——Improvement in the class of publicans during the last ten years; causes to which attributable, *Glass* 544–547——General character of publicans; suggested mode of increasing their respectability, *Neilson* 3230–3232.

Charles Street, Drury Lane. Circumstance of liquors having for some time been sold on Sunday mornings at a house in Charles-street, Drury-lane, *Balfour* 1217, 1218.

Chatsworth. Circumstances attending the closing and re-opening of Chatsworth on Sunday adverted to, as showing the beneficial effects of opening public places of rational amusement on Sunday, *Sir J. Paxton* 3095-3097. 3110, 3111; *Rep. p.* xxii.——Orderly character of the visitors, *Sir J. Paxton* 3098, 3099. 3110, 3111——Only two men are employed in looking after that portion of the grounds open on Sundays, *ib.* 3102, 3103——Large number of persons visiting Chatsworth on Mondays, *ib.* 3112-3114——Extent of the grounds open on Sunday; number of visitors, *ib.* 3115, 3116.

Clegg, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Solicitor at Oldham, 3661——Particulars as the hush-shops, or unlicensed beerhouses at Oldham; difficulty of obtaining convictions against them for want of evidence, 3664–3694——The inhabitants of Oldham are averse to public-houses being closed on Sunday, on account of an anticipated increase in the hush-shops, 3686, 3687——Belief that hush-shops are general in Rochdale, 3688——Bad character of the persons frequenting these houses, 3689——Steps taken by the Inland Revenue Office for their suppression, 3690——Extract from a report of the superintendent of police for the year 1851, showing the number of hush-sellers in Oldham, and length of time they have carried on the practice, distinguishing those kept by parties who follow any trade or calling; difficulty of obtaining a conviction explained, and suggestion with a view to their suppression, 3693, 3694.

Closing Act, 11 & 12 *Vict. c.* 49. See *Early Closing. Sunday Closing.*

Club-houses. Club-houses would not come under the operation of a law affecting public-houses, *Hawes* 4731.

Coal Hole Tavern, Strand. Immoral character of the singing, &c. at this place; class of persons frequenting the tavern, *Balfour* 1265–1269. 1279——Large quantity of liquor drank, *ib.* 1276–1280.

Coculus Indicus. Intoxicating properties of coculus indicus; difficulty of detecting the presence of this substance in beer, *Hassall* 4341–4344.

Coffee Shops. Spirits are rarely sold in the London coffee-shops, *Weyland* 119——If public-houses were closed on Sunday, coffee-shops would be more resorted to, *Bowthorpe* 869, 870——Increased number of coffee-houses in London, during the last 25 years, *Balfour* 1330–1332——Advantage of coffee-houses being registered, and subject to certain regulations, *ib.* 1336-1344——Description of games allowed at coffee-houses, *ib.* 1339——Coffee-houses should be subject to the inspection or supervision of the police, *ib.* 1343-1350. 1442-1444.

Respectable coffee-house keepers would not object to pay a small duty for a licence, *Balfour* 1345–1347——Beneficial tendency of coffee-houses by reason of the literature supplied to the customers, *ib.* 1348, 1349——Beneficial effect of coffee-houses being licensed, and power of inspection being given to the police, *James* 3395-3396. 3401, 3402——At present the police have no power to enter coffee-houses unless there is a disturbance, *ib.* 3393. 3397.

Reference to the disorderly conduct of some coffee-shops, *Rep. p.* xxiii——Opinion of Committee that coffee-houses should be placed under more strict police control, *ib.* xxiv.——Resolution that all coffee-shops, temperance hotels, shell-fish shops, and similar places of public resort, should be required to be licensed for their respective purposes, and should be subject to be visited and reported upon in the same manner as public-houses; and that the amount to be paid for every such licence should be 2 *l.* per annum, *ib.* xxvi.

See also *Night Houses. Pamphilon's Coffee-house.*

Concerts. Particulars with regard to a plan proposed by witness for establishing at Manchester a cheap concert unconnected with the sale of liquors, *Richardson* 3612-3614——Considerations, by Mr. Lang of Manchester, as to the conduct and operation of concert rooms for the working classes, *App. p.* 289, 290——Opinion that places for musical and other entertainment may be useful in the prevention of intemperance, *Rep. p.* xxvi.

See also *Coal Hole Tavern, Strand. Dancing Rooms. Eagle Tavern, City Road.*

Consolidation of Acts. Resolution that the several laws relating to the regulation and licensing of beershops, public-houses, and places of entertainment, and the several provisions of the Police and Excise Acts appertaining thereto, should be consolidated and made to accord with the resolutions of the Committee on the present occasion, *Rep. p.* xxvii.

Consumption. Belief that the total consumption of beer would not be lessened by the houses being closed on Sunday, *Chamen* 602-604. 612-614——Class of persons who are consumers respectively of beer and spirits, *ib.* 622-626.

Control. Suggested control over beershops by means of some independent Board, *Weyland* 164, 165. 185; *Baylee* 257, 258——Expediency of a more efficient control over beerhouses than that exercised by the police, *Wren* 2940-2943. 2955, 2956. 2992-2995

Control—continued.

——Suggestion for abolishing beerhouses and giving absolute power of control to the licensing magistrates over all public-houses, *James* 3246-3248. 3336, 3337——Usefulness of some superintending power (to which the licensed victuallers would not object) to prevent the illegal sale of liquors, *Stinton* 3733-3735——Public-houses should be under the control of the Board of Inland Revenue and the police, *Hawes* 4561. 4587. 4621-4623. 4650, 4651. 4732——Necessity of a control over the sale of intoxicating drinks, *Rep. p.* xv.——*See* also *Inspection. Police. Sureties.*

Convictions. Circumstance of publicans being sometimes convicted for occurrences in their houses over which they have no control, *Maber* 399——The good conduct of public-houses is partly attributable to the strictness with which offences are treated, *Glass* 555, 556——Offences for which public-houses are generally convicted, *Hutton* 1476——Recommended summary mode of conviction on houses being improperly conducted, *ib.* 1503.

Belief that the offences of public-houses are more frequent than the convictions show, *Cunliffe* 2414-2418——Importance of the summons specifying the number of convictions, *James* 3383-3385. 3388-3392——There is no difficulty in proving a third conviction, *ib.* 3386, 3387.

Resolution, that houses already licensed should, in case of conviction of any offence against the law, be brought in all respects under the new laws, *Rep. p.* xxii.

Cremorne Gardens. Cremorne Gardens and the Manor Gardens, Camberwell, have licences for spirits as well as for music and dancing, *Balfour* 1254-1261——Terms of admission on Sunday, *ib.* 4800.

Crime. Large proportion of crime attributable to drunkenness; opinion of the judges on this point, *Card* 1937, 1938. 1949-1953——Admission of prisoners in gaols that drunkenness (principally on Saturday night and Sunday) has been the cause of their crimes, *Wright* 2016-2112. 2152-2154——Large number of persons who become criminals through parental neglect or drunkenness, *ib.* 2121-2143. 2146-2151——Existence of crime generally attributed to habits of intemperance, *Wright* 2169-2181; *Rep. p.* xiv, xv.——Belief that closing all public-houses and beershops from seven o'clock on Saturday evening till nine on Monday morning, would tend greatly to decrease the criminal population, *Wright* 2229.——*See* also *Reformed Criminals.*

Crystal Palace. Objection to the amount of labour that would be involved if the Crystal Palace were open on Sundays, *Baylee* 259, 260——Large number of persons who go to see the Crystal Palace on Sunday, and afterwards resort to the public-houses adjoining, *Haddock* 740-743. 760-769. 790-795——Bad effect of the Crystal Palace on the inhabitants of Norwood, *ib.* 777-781——The closing of the local public-houses on Sunday would induce persons to open coffee-shops in the vicinity of the palace, *ib.* 796, 797.

Tendency of the opening of the Crystal Palace on Sunday to improve the habits and condition of the working classes; slight amount of labour which it would entail, *Sir J. Paxton* 3104-3106. 3110-3117. 3121-3126. 3139, 3140. 3164——Proposal that the building and grounds be opened at one or two o'clock on Sundays, and that no intoxicating liquors be sold, *ib.* 3118-3120. 3130-3138——The price of admission would be very low, *ib.* 3122——The number of visitors would greatly depend on the facilities for transit, *ib.* 3123——Slight grounds for apprehension as to the conduct of the people visiting the Crystal Palace on Sunday, *ib.* 3125, 3126——Certain portions of the palace would be closed, *ib.* 3130-3132. 3136——Approval of the palace being open on Sundays, *Hawes* 4685.

The taking of money at the doors is the reason why the palace cannot now be opened, *Sir J. Paxton* 3123. 3134——Circumstance of Government taking money on Sundays for admission into the chapel at Greenwich, &c., *ib.* 3134, 3135——Power of the shareholders to visit the palace on Sunday, and give gratuitous admission, but they consider themselves bound by the clause in the charter prohibiting money being taken, *ib.* 3142-3152.

See also *Chatsworth. Norwood. Recreation. Zoological Gardens, Dublin.*

Cunliffe, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Bolton, Lancashire, 2298——Various movements for the benefit of the working classes, in which witness has interested himself for the last twenty years, 2298-2305——The use of intoxicating drinks is the great obstacle to the improvement of working men, 2302. 2434-2436——Slight opposition offered to the Act for closing public-houses till one o'clock on Sunday, 2305-2307——Evidence and returns as to the favourable results of this measure, 2308 *et seq.* and *App. p.* 284-286——Belief that drunkenness has increased of late in Manchester, owing to the increased means of the working classes, 2323——If the police of Manchester were to take cognizance of all cases of drunkenness, the apprehensions for that offence would greatly increase, 2339-2345——Belief that the amount of drunkenness is in proportion to the means of the working classes, 2346-2349.

Reference to numerously attended public meetings at Bolton, as favourable to the closing of public-houses on Sunday, 2350-2359. 2469-2474——Publicans are divided in opinion

Cunliffe, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

opinion upon the subject of closing for the whole day, 2360–2364——Result of a canvass of thirty-five public-houses and beershops at Blyth, Northumberland, with a view to closing on Sunday, 2361, 2362——The majority of the working classes at Bolton are in favour of closing on Sunday, 2365, 2366. 2378–2381——There is but one public-house closed on Sunday in Bolton, 2369——Slight inconvenience to the bulk of the people if all the houses were closed, 2370–2372. 2375, 2376.

Large number of persons who have taken the pledge at Bolton, 2377——A free library has been lately established; particulars relative thereto, 2384. 2392–2396. 2399–2402——Witness approves of public libraries and parks being open on Sunday, 2385–2387. 2397–2399——Class of reading patronized by the working people of Bolton, 2388–2391——Objection to the facility with which public-houses are established; legislation should tend to the absolute prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, 2403–2408. 2456——Suggestions with regard to carrying out this object, 2408–2413. 2457–2461——Belief that the offences of public-houses are more frequent than the convictions show, 2414–2418——Number of public-houses and beerhouses in Bolton, and number of convictions against them last year, 2419–2422——Efficiency of the police force to exercise a vigilant superintendence, 2423–2426.

The chief offence brought against publicans is for selling liquors at unlawful hours on Sunday, 2427, 2428——Population of Bolton, and number of convictions for drunkenness last year, 2429–2431——Numerous cases of drunkenness included in the convictions for assaults, &c., 2431–2433——Expediency of removing the temptations to drunkenness, 2436–2438——Probability of unlicensed houses increasing if public-houses were closed on Sunday; manner in which this difficulty should be met, 2439–2444——Belief that closing public-houses on Sunday would greatly decrease the amount of drunkenness, 2445–2448. 2490——Evil effects of the Beer Act adverted to, 2449, 2450——Temptation of the cheap beer sold at spirit vaults; quality of this beer, 2451–2455——Large number of the ratepayers of Bolton who signed a memorial to the magistrates, praying that no new licences should be granted, and also for the gradual prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, 2462–2468.

Class of persons holding public-houses in Bolton, 2477–2479——No public-houses have been licensed since the presentation of the memorial eight years ago; increased number of beerhouses during that time, 2480–2482——Slight difficulty in getting rid of beershops in comparison to licensed houses, 2483–2485——Opinion that entirely closing public-houses and beershops would be the only effectual check to the drunkenness, 2487–2489——Suggestion as to the reception and refreshment of travellers, 2491–2500——Insufficiency of the present penalties as a check upon the violation of the law on Sundays; return in illustration, 2501–2505, and *App. p.* 286, 287——Rarity of a third conviction in Bolton, 2504——Statement of the number of persons in twelve public-houses and twelve beershops in Bolton, between eight and nine o'clock on Sunday 4th June 1854; 2506, and *App. p.* 287——Several petitions have been presented for the gradual repeal of the Beer Act; copy of one delivered in, 2507, 2508, and *App. p.* 287.

D.

Dancing Rooms:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Dean Street, Soho.*

1. *Generally:*

Many public-houses at Hackney have attractions of music and dancing, for which a separate licence is generally obtained; bad effects of this system, *Glass* 566–576——Evils of music and dancing being allowed at public-houses, *Balfour* 1162–1165. 1219–1228——Inconvenience to dancing establishments in not having a licence to supply the company with refreshments, *Caldwell* 1592–1594. 1600. 1605–1608. 1623–1626. 1678——There would be no objection on the part of proprietors of dancing rooms to pay for a licence to supply refreshments exclusively to their customers, *ib.* 1610. 1636. 1637. 1662–1665. 1791——Belief that if tea and coffee only were supplied the company would go out to the public-houses, *ib.* 1613, 1614.

Beneficial effects of dancing rooms being registered, and power being given to call in the police to keep order, *Caldwell* 1638–1641——Popularity of dancing as an amusement of the working classes, *ib.* 1642–1646——Practice of dancing saloons in London with regard to refreshments and licences, *ib.* 1680–1684——Willingness of witness and other proprietors of dancing rooms to be responsible for the good order of their establishments if licences be granted to them, *ib.* 1791, 1792.

Disapproval of the recreation at public dancing establishments, though intoxicating liquors may not be sold, *Wright* 2236–2240——Belief that young persons are generally driven to those places by the uncomfortableness of their homes, *ib.* 2241–2243.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Dancing Rooms—continued.

2. *Dean Street, Soho:*

Witness is proprietor of a licensed establishment for dancing in Dean-street, Soho, *Caldwell* 1571–1578——Has been twice fined by the Excise for receiving a profit on refreshments brought in from a public-house, *ib.* 1579–1581. 1588, 1589——Grounds for which witness's application for a spirit licence was refused, *ib.* 1582–1587——Opposition of the publicans in the neighbourhood to a licence being granted to witness, *ib.* 1584. 1590——Belief that the sale of spirits would not endanger the orderly conduct of the assembly, *ib.* 1595. 1601.

No case of drunkenness has occurred in the assembly room, *Caldwell* 1603, 1604——The law does not prevent liquors being consumed on the premises, *ib.* 1609. 1678——Class of persons attending, *ib.* 1610. 1647. 1658–1661——Course pursued for the exclusion of objectionable persons, *ib.* 1611, 1612. 1627–1629. 1648–1652——Necessity of spirits and beer, &c. being supplied, *ib.* 1613, 1614. 1623–1626——Average number of persons attending the rooms, *ib.* 1615.

Circumstance of a policeman refusing to come into witness's rooms until an assault had been committed, adverted to, *Caldwell* 1630–1635——Hours during which the saloon is open, *ib.* 1653–1755——Accommodation on the premises for refreshments, &c., *ib.* 1656, 1657——Belief that taking out a beer licence would entail closing the rooms at 11 o'clock, *ib.* 1667, 1668——Possibility of witness now obtaining a spirit licence if he tried, *ib.* 1670–1677——Reason why he has not renewed his application for a licence, *ib.* 1689, 1690——Use to which the dancing saloon is occasionally put on Sundays, *ib.* 1776–1779——Witness holds a public-house belonging to Messrs. Meux & Co., in Dean-street, but the business is carried on by, and the licence taken out in the name of, his sister, *ib.* 1595–1598——The public-house and the dancing rooms are distinct premises, *ib.* 1685–1688——The public-house is closed till one o'clock, and from three to half-past four on Sundays; small number of persons attending, *ib.* 1774, 1775. 1780–1782.

See also *Meux, Messrs.*

Derby. Letter received by witness in 1853 from the superintendent of police at Derby, showing the benefits resulting from the partial closing of public-houses on Sunday, *Baylee* 230–232.

Dilution. Explanation as to witness's practice of "dashing" the beer or adding water to it, *Caldwell* 1720. 1726–1738. 1741——Necessity of publicans and beer-shopkeepers diluting their beer to supply the public at a cheap rate; manner in which it is diluted, *Horner* 4017–4019. 4028–4037; *Hawes* 4568–4579——The London stouts generally are weakened by the addition of water by the publicans, *Hassall* 4318, 4319——Considerable extent to which beer and spirits are diluted, adverted to by the Committee, *Rep. p.* viii, ix.——*See* also *Gin.*

Discussions. Reference to discussions held at beershops on Sunday evenings, *Balfour* 4759. 4763, 4764.

Disqualification. It would be advisable that houses should be utterly disqualified on the licence being forfeited, *Neilson* 3233, 3234.

Divine Service. See *Recreation. Sunday Closing. Sundays.*

Dramatic Performances. See *Amateur Dramatic Performances. Theatres, &c.*

Drinking on Premises. It would be an improvement on the present system if drinking were disallowed on the premises during Sunday, *Weylland* 76–81. 141–149; *Baylee* 245–248; *Thornburgh* 4093–4096. 4115——Impossibility of enforcing a regulation against drinking on the premises on Sunday as regards hotels and houses with *bonâ fide* lodgers, *Baylee* 249——There could be but slight objection to public-houses being open from one to three o'clock on Sundays, or for an hour or two in the evening, but no liquors should be allowed to be drunk on the premises, *Haddock* 711–717. 798. 799. 801–806. 825——Evils arising from drinking on the premises on Sunday, *ib.* 715–717. 763. 814–816——Difficulty of preventing liquors being drunk on the premises if allowed to be sold at certain times, *Bowthorpe* 905–908.

Frequent evasion in Dublin of the law prohibiting spirits being consumed on the premises, *Haughton* 2561–2563. 2565——Impossibility of carrying into effect a law prohibiting altogether drinking on the premises, *ib.* 2576, 2577——Great importance of providing that no liquors be drunk on the premises at any time, *Everett* 3045–3050——There can be no objection to the unrestricted sale of beer to be drunk off the premises, *Stinton* 3826.

Reference to the occasional sale of liquors on premises when not licensed for that purpose, *Rep. p.* vi.

Drunkenness. Difficulty of attempting to reform persons who are in the habit of resorting to public-houses, *Weyland* 56, 57——Large number of persons habitually attending public-houses, *ib.* 177——Times when the greatest drunkenness takes place, *Haddock* 721, 722. 805–811——Pernicious effects of intemperate habits, *Balfour* 1159–1161——

Difficulty

575

Drunkenness—continued.

Difficulty of reforming women of drunken habits, *Balfour* 1303-1305——The greatest amount of drunkenness is in the male population, *ib.* 1306, 1307——Beneficial tendency of education being encouraged, and the recreation of the people being promoted, as a check on drunkenness, *ib.* 1410——Habits of reformed drunkards adverted to, *Card* 1920-1922——Belief that drunkenness is on the increase, *ib.* 1923-1926——Classification of persons indulging in intoxicating drinks, *Wright* 2116-2120——The passion for drink is stronger in the lower class of women than in men, *ib.* 2142. 2144, 2145——Admissions by paupers that intemperate habits have brought them to their condition, *ib.* 2176-2181.

Belief that the amount of drunkenness is in proportion to the means of the working classes, *Cunliffe* 2346-2349——Increased amount of drunkenness and crime when trade is flourishing and wages are good, *James* 3316-3323; *Richardson* 3572-3574——Opinion that drunkenness is not much more prevalent in Scotland than in England; evidence in support of this opinion, *Lees* 4272-4283——The apprehensions by the police must not be taken as evidence of the amount of drunkenness in England, *ib.* 4282.

Defectiveness of the statistics of intemperance, *Rep. p.* xiii——Drunkenness in London and Manchester adverted to, *ib.* xiii, xiv.

See also *Crime. Lancashire. Liverpool. Manchester*, 3. *Reformed Criminals. Saturdays. Sunday Closing. Sundays. Working Classes.*

Dublin. Manner in which the Sunday afternoon is spent by the poor in Dublin, *Haughton* 2524——Hours during which the public-houses are open on Sunday, *ib.* 2544-2550——Number of persons annually taken into custody for drunkenness, *ib.* 2552, 2553——Plan adopted in granting licences to the public-houses, *ib.* 2557——Belief that spirits are not sold to any great extent without a licence, *ib.* 2566. 2567.

Large consumption of spirits on Saturday night and Sunday in Dublin, *Haughton* 2624, 2625——Large number of persons in Dublin who have signed a petition for the purpose of Sunday closing; classes to which they belong, *ib.* 2626-2628——Places in Dublin which could be made applicable to the recreation of the people on Sundays, *ib.* 2629, 2630——Public-houses are now open after two o'clock, *ib.* 2634——Reduced number of the public-houses since 1839, *ib.* 2648——Belief that the population has increased latterly, *ib.* 2649——Class of persons who hold the public-houses, *ib.* 2658.

See also *Grocers. Zoological Gardens, Dublin.*

Dwellings of the Lower Classes. Importance of improvement in the dwellings of the lower orders, *Wright* 2253-2255.

E.

Eagle Tavern, City-road. Immoral tendency of the amusements and attractions at this place; class and number of persons attending, *Balfour* 1230 *et seq.*; 1253. 4794-4807——The house obtained a spirit licence and a licence for music, and has been established for many years, *ib.* 1245. 1251. 4797——Mr. Conquest is the present lessee, *ib.* 1262-1264. 4808——Attractions on Sunday at the Eagle Tavern; large number of visitors; terms of admission, *ib.* 4768-4772. 4800. 4810-4813——There are several other places of the same description in different parts of London, *ib.* 4773, 4774——Orderly manner in which the tavern is conducted, 4802, 4803——The gardens are not closed at the termination of the performances at half past eleven o'clock, *ib.* 4807.

Early Closing. If public-houses were closed earlier, there would be a diminution of drunkenness, *Weylland* 190-192——It would be injurious to the trade to limit the time of closing on week-days, *Maber* 351-357——Advisableness of closing earlier on week-days, *Chamen* 680-692——Public convenience does not require that public-houses should be open all night, *Powell* 968. 975, 976——Low and disorderly class of persons frequenting public-houses after twelve o'clock at night on week-days, *ib.* 976-980——Suggested closing at twelve o'clock, *ib.* 988.

Public-houses in the vicinity of theatres should be closed much earlier than at present, *Balfour* 1439-1441——All houses should be closed at twelve o'clock every night, except those in the immediate vicinity of a railway, *Hunter* 2819, 2820——Suggested closing of public-houses at eleven o'clock p. m. during the week, *Hawes* 4719-4762.

Public-houses and beershops should close at the same hours on all days, *Rep. p.* xxi——Resolution that all places for the sale of intoxicating drinks should be closed on week-days from eleven o'clock p. m. until four o'clock a. m., *ib.* xxvii.

See also *Edinburgh. Glasgow. Places of Amusement. Scotland. Sunday Closing*, 3, 4.

Eating-Houses. Probability of the illegal sale of beer and spirits in eating-houses, if public-houses were closed on Sunday, *Baylee* 253-256.

Report, 1854—*continued*.

Edinburgh. Excessive drinking in Edinburgh on Sundays previous to the passing of the Act for the better regulation of public-houses in Scotland, *Baylee* 271–274——Beneficial effects of the public-houses being closed on Sundays, *Card* 1846–1855——Slight amount of drunkenness on Whit-Sunday, *Stinton* 3715–3717——Return by the superintendent of police, showing the small amount of drunkenness on Sunday under the new system, as compared with the old, *M'Callum* 4174.

Evasions of the Law. Necessity of the law being more rigorously administered with respect to Sunday trading, it being much evaded at the present time, *Weylland* 101–103. 110. 114; *Stinton* 3725. 3729–3736; *Homes* 3885. 4063–4066; *Hawes* 4678; *Balfour* 4751, 4752; *Rep. p.* xx——Licensed victuallers seldom serve customers on Sunday morning, from fear of losing their licences, *Weylland* 103–105——Active measures adopted for the suppression of the illegal sale of spirits, *ib.* 116–118——Great extent to which the sale of spirits is carried on in unlicensed houses, *ib.* 116–119.

How far the closing on Sunday might occasion the illegal sale of liquors, *Chamen* 648–653——Probability of drink being obtained in an illegal manner if public-houses are closed on Sundays, *Cunliffe* 2439, 2440; *Jackson* 2695. 2698. 2704–2706; *Hunter* 2792. 2806. 2810. 2854–2857——Manner in which such probability might be checked, *Cunliffe* 2442–2444——Great vigilance required to prevent evasions of the law in Scotland, *M'Callum* 4174——Slight difficulty anticipated in preventing the illegal sale of spirits, *ib.* 4195. 4196.

Frequent instances of illegal sale of beer and spirits adverted to, *Rep. p.* vi——The distinctions as to licences lead to evasion of the law, *ib.* vi——Reference to the frequent sale of drinks without licence, *ib.* xiii——Resolution that any person selling intoxicating drinks without being licensed for their sale should be subject to a penalty, to be recovered before the magistrates, not exceeding double the amount required by law to be paid in that locality for a licence to sell intoxicating drinks, *ib.* xxvii.

See also *Act* 12 *Charles II., c.* 24, *s.* 49. *Control*. *Eating-Houses*. *Illicit Spirits*. *Oldham*. *Rochdale*. *Theatres, &c.*

Everett, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manufacturer of straw goods at Luton and Dunstable; employs a large number of persons, 2996–3000——Demoralising influence of the public-houses and beershops, in being open on Sundays, 3001–3008. 3035–3039——Large number of these houses in proportion to the population of Luton, 3005——The majority of the people, and nearly all the publicans, are favourable to the Sunday closing movement, 3006, 3007. 3020, 3021. 3025. 3043——Evils peculiar to the lower class of beerhouses, 3008–3016. 3026, 3027——Large attendance at the Saturday evening meetings of the Temperance Society at Luton, 3017–3019——Impossibility of improving the working classes while they continue the habit of drinking, 3022——A large number of witness's hands are total abstainers, 3023–3025——Early age at which the women indulge in drinking, 3028–3030.

Application has been made to the magistrates at Luton not to license gin palaces, 3031–3033——General character of the population, 3033, 3034——Large amount of profligacy and crime attributable to drinking, particularly on Saturday and Sunday, 3035–3039——Provision should be made for supplying travellers with refreshment on Sunday, 3045——Great importance of providing that no liquors be drunk on the premises, 3045–3050——Belief that throwing open the spirit trade would in the course of time operate beneficially, and that there would be less drunkenness, 3050–3064——Witness does not anticipate any benefit from increasing the amount of the licence, 3065–3068——The rating qualification at Luton is 12*l.*, 3069.

Excise. See *Beershops*. *Board of Inland Revenue*. *Ireland*. *Maine Liquor Law*, 3.

Excursionists. Large number of persons making excursions from Manchester into the adjacent country on Sunday; evils of the system, *Wright* 2268–2279——Inconvenience of closing public-houses on Sunday to excursionists, *James* 3309–3311——Witness has always observed that excursionists are a sober and well-conducted class of people, *Speechly* 4149–4151.

F.

Fearon, Messrs. Statement by Messrs. Fearon, wine and spirit merchants, of Holborn-hill, deprecating any interference with their retail system of trade, *App. p.* 291, 292.

Fines. See *Penalties*.

Fining. Process of fining the beer explained, *Caldwell* 1765.

Fowler, John Coke. Suggestions and considerations by Mr. Fowler, stipendiary magistrate for Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire, *App. p.* 288, 289.

Frauds. See *Adulteration*. *Evasions of the Law*.

577

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Friendly Societies. Influence of friendly associations established of late years in checking drunkenness, *Wood* 1127-1131——Suggested prohibition of friendly societies from meeting in public-houses, *Richardson* 3657.

G.

Gambling. Extent to which gambling is carried on in the public-houses and beerhouses at Birmingham; manner in which this is attributable to the number of beerhouses, *Stinton* 3811, 3812——Difficulties experienced by publicans or beershop-keepers in preventing card-playing and gambling, *Rep. p.* vii.——*See* also *Coffee Shops.*

George's, St., in the East, Middlesex. Particulars as to the population, amount of wages, and habits of the working classes, included in a survey made by witness, under Mr. Fletcher, in 1845, for the Statistical Society, *Balfour* 1177-1187——Temperate and orderly conduct of the German sugar bakers adverted to, *ib.* 1182. 1442. 1447——Large number of public-houses and gin palaces in the parish, *ib.* 1187-1191.

Gin. Necessity of witness "dashing" (or diluting) the gin as well as the beer, inasmuch as he pays 12*s.* a gallon for it, and sells it at 10*s.* 8*d.*, *Caldwell* 1766-1773——How far the practice of reducing the strength of gin by the addition of sugar and water may be considered a fraud, *M'Culloch* 4452-4458——Result of the analysis made by witness of samples of gin obtained from public-houses in different parts of London; manner in which the adulteration is accomplished, *Hassall* 4346-4355.

Gin Palaces. Evils of the gin-palace system, *Weylland* 194, 195——Greater attraction of the gin palace than of the respectable licensed victualler's house, *ib.* 196.

Glasgow. Beneficial effect of the change in the law with regard to public-houses, which came into operation in Glasgow on the 15th of May last, *M'Callum* 4168-4171. 4174-4177. 4203-4208——Statement of the superintendent of police as to the satisfactory working of the Act, *ib.* 4171-4174——Queries sent by witness to forty of the city missionaries, &c. in Glasgow with respect to drunkenness, and its effects upon the amount of crime and pauperism, *ib.* 4178-4180——With one exception, the answers to these queries express a wish that the sale of ardent spirits may be entirely prohibited, *ib.* 4181——Evils of the facilities with which licences are obtained in Glasgow, *ib.* 4182, 4183——Answers to the queries referred to delivered in, *ib.* 4190——General satisfaction given in Glasgow by the Act providing for the closing of public-houses on week days from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., and on Sundays altogether, *ib.* 4210, 4211.

Glass, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Licensed victualler in the Hackney-road, 437-440——Keeps his house closed during Sunday on principle, 439-443. 504——Is doing a better trade than his predecessor; cause of the increase, 442. 498-506——A beershop in the neighbourhood is also closed on Sunday, on principle, 444. 523, 524——Satisfactory working of the plan adopted by witness of supplying his customers with beer in bottles on Saturday night for consumption on Sunday, 444-451. 525-528——No application is made by travellers for refreshment during Sunday, 452-454——Witness supplies other refreshments besides liquors, 455-457——Brandy, &c. is supplied on Sunday in cases of necessity, 457. 529, 530——Hours when public-houses are most frequented on Sunday, 458-463——There is more excessive drinking on Sunday evening than at any other time, except from six to twelve o'clock, on Saturday evenings, 464-467. 470, 471——Class of persons using public-houses on Sunday evenings, 468, 469.

No material inconvenience would arise if the houses were closed altogether on Sunday, 472-474. 476——The general wish of respectable publicans is favourable to their being closed, 474. 480. 497. 514-516——Disposition of the working classes to support the measure, 477-479——Victoria Park has a very salutary effect on the working classes, vast numbers attending it during Sunday, 483-490. 510-512. 576, 577——No liquors are sold in the park, 491——Time of closing the park in summer, 492——The working classes would be greatly benefited by public-houses being closed on Sunday, 493-496——Beerhouses are frequented by a lower class of persons than public-houses, 517-519.

The law is generally observed in Hackney with regard to keeping closed on Sunday morning, 520-522——Power of the police to demand admission with a customer in cases of necessity, 531-534——Witness's house is independent of the brewer, 535-537——Witness is not aware of any brewer's house being closed on Sunday, 538-540——Satisfactory working of the present system of licensing, 541-543. 550——Improvement in the class of publicans during the last 10 years; causes to which attributable, 544-547——Large number of applications for licences, 548, 549. 551——Witness has lodgers in his house occasionally, 552, 553——Circumstances to which the good conduct of public-houses is attributable, 554-556——Nature of the authority of the magistrates over beerhouses, 557-564——Evils of the beerhouses, 564——Beerhouses close at 12 o'clock at night, 565——Many public-houses at Hackney have attractions of music and dancing, for which a separate licence is generally obtained; bad effects of this system, 566-576.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Grocers. Mischief arising from grocers being licensed to sell spirits, as is the case in Dublin, *Haughton* 2557-2561. 2564. 2572-2575——Manner in which licences are obtained by grocers; no other tradesmen are allowed to sell spirits, *ib.* 2568-2571.

Groundford Green. Large number of working people and mechanics who make excursions down the canal to Groundford Green on Sundays, *Balfour* 1309, 1310.

H.

Hackney. Witness, who is a publican in the Hackney-road, keeps his house closed during Sunday on principle, *Glass* 437-443——He is doing a better trade than his predecessor; cause of the increase, *ib.* 442. 498-506——A beershop in the neighbourhood is also closed on Sunday on principle, *ib.* 445. 523, 524——Witness supplies other refreshments besides liquors, *ib.* 455-457——Brandy, &c., is supplied on Sunday in cases of necessity, *ib.* 457. 529, 530——The law is generally observed in Hackney with regard to keeping closed on Sunday morning, *ib.* 520-522——Witness's house is independent of the brewer, *ib.* 535-537.

Hours during which witness's house at Hackney is closed on Sundays; diminution of his previous receipts in consequence, *Homer* 3938-3942——Circumstance of witness having been assaulted and insulted at a teetotal meeting at Hackney adverted to, *ib.* 3957, 3958——Two tradesmen in Hackney recovered damages for being taken in custody for an alleged disturbance at a similar meeting, *ib.* 3858. 3960.

See also *Victoria Park.*

Haddock, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Carpenter and joiner at Norwood, 698, 699. 725, 726. 776——Is not in the habit of frequenting a public-house on Sunday, 701, 702——Has his beer supplied from the brewer by the cask, 702, 703. 753-756——No inconvenience would be felt by the respectable labouring classes if public-houses were closed on Sunday, 704-710. 751. 757-759. 800——There could be but slight objection to public-houses being open from one to three o'clock, or for an hour or two in the evening, on Sundays, but no liquors should be allowed to be drank on the premises, 711-717. 750. 798, 799. 801-806. 814-816. 825——Houses should be entirely closed after three o'clock, except for the sale of spirits for medical purposes, 718, 719. 749——Times when the greatest drunkenness takes place, 721, 722. 805-811.

Increased population of Norwood since the Crystal Palace has been in progress, 723-741——Number of beer and spirit houses in the neighbourhood licensed within the last two years, 724. 782-789——The men who are in the habit of resorting to public-houses at Norwood till a late hour on Sunday night are chiefly of the working class in the vicinity of the palace, 727-730. 760-764. 775——The general feeling of mechanics and labouring men is in favour of public-houses being closed on Sunday, 731. 818-824——Large numbers of persons come to see the Crystal Palace on Sunday, and afterwards resort to the public-houses, 740-743. 760-769. 790-795——It would be beneficial to working men if all masters paid them on Friday, 744, 745——Few masters pay their men at public-houses now, 746-748.

Habitual drunkards would be greatly benefited by public-houses being closed on Sunday, 770-774——Bad effect of the Crystal Palace on the inhabitants of Norwood, 777-781——The closing of the public-houses on Sunday would induce persons to open coffee-shops in the vicinity of the Palace, 796, 797——Great drunkenness in Norwood on Saturday and Sunday nights, 808-811——Public-houses should be closed at ten o'clock on Saturday night, 812, 813——Necessity of persons being supplied with refreshment when travelling a long distance, 826, 827——Circumstance of the public-houses at Ipswich being all closed on Sunday, except for two hours in the middle of the day, 828-835.

Hampton Court. Immense labour devolving on the railway servants through the crowds resorting to Hampton Court on Sundays, *Baylee* 261.

Hanbury, Messrs. Circumstance of Messrs. Hanbury objecting to their beer being sold at 3*d.* per pot, *Homer* 4043, 4044.——*See* also *Bishop, Mr.*

Hassall, Arthur Hill. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Doctor of Medicine and Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, 4303——Attention paid by witness to the mode of adulteration of malt liquors, 4304-4306——Stout and porter procured at the taps of the breweries are of greater average strength than those obtained from publicans, 4307-4310. 4313-4317. 4321-4322——Brewers are not responsible for the quality of the beer supplied, 4310-4312——Tables delivered in, and remarks thereon, showing the results of the chemical analysis of stout and porter obtained from the taps of different London brewers and from the publicans, 4314-4322——It is important that samples should be obtained direct from the breweries, 4322-4324.

Particulars as to the several modes in which beer is adulterated by the publicans; different ingredients used in the process, 4325 *et seq.*——Purpose for which a mixture of salt and flour is used by brewers, 4330-4333——Extensive use of gentian or camomiles by

Hassall, Arthur Hill. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

by the brewers at Bristol in brewing "Burton" ale, 4340——Result of the analysis made by witness of samples of gin obtained from public-houses in different parts of London, 4346–4355.

Suggestions with a view to prevent adulteration in general, and for the punishment of the offence on detection, 4356 *et seq.*

Haughton, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides in Dublin, 2510——The Zoological Gardens, Dublin, are opened to the public after Church service on Sunday at a trifling charge, with a view to decrease the number frequenting public-houses; great extent to which the lower classes availed themselves of this recreation, 2514–2521. 2524–2527——Advantage of the Botanical Gardens, Dublin, being open on Sunday, 2522, 2523——Manner in which the Sunday afternoon is spent by the poor in Dublin, 2524——Statement read showing the number of persons visiting the Zoological Gardens, distinguishing those paying 1 *d.* and those admitted free, in the years 1841–1854; 2527–2532——Extract from the annual report of the council of the Zoological Society as to the decorous conduct of the poor persons visiting the gardens, 2532——Letter from the Secretary of the Dublin Mechanics' Institution to the Secretary of the Zoological Society, commendatory of the plan adopted of admitting the public at a small charge on Sunday, 2533——Advisability of places for rational recreation being open to the public on Sundays, 2534–2543. 2586.

Hours during which public-houses are open in Dublin on Sunday, 2544–2558——Number of persons annually taken into custody for drunkenness, 2552, 2553——Belief that the Beer Act does not extend to Ireland; all public-houses are licensed, 2555, 2556——Plan adopted in granting licences to public-houses in Dublin, 2557——The police have power to inspect public-houses at all hours, 2557——Mischief arising from grocers being licensed to sell spirits, 2557–2561. 2564. 2572–2575——Frequent evasion of the law prohibiting spirits being consumed on the premises, 2561–2563. 2565——Belief that spirits are not sold to any great extent without a license, 2566, 2567——Manner in which licences are obtained by grocers; no other tradesmen are allowed to sell spirits, 2568–2571——Impossibility of carrying into effect a law prohibiting altogether drinking on the premises, 2576, 2577——Facilities of obtaining spirits in Ireland, 2578, 2579. 2640.

Grounds upon which witness founds his opinion that the entire prohibition of the sale of spirits would meet with but slight opposition in Ireland; expediency of such prohibition, 2580–2585. 2635. 2645. 2655–2657. 2664, 2665. 2668, 2669. 2685——Increased amount of Excise receipts since 1840; 2588, 2589——Increased consumption of whiskey since 1842; 2589–2592. 2601—Great success of the temperance movement in 1842; beneficial effect on the population, 2590–2600. 2610——Belief that the law making the customers in Ireland equally liable with the publican for selling spirits during prohibited hours is not carried out, 2601, 2602——Publicans, if convicted three times by district magistrate, are liable to be deprived of their licence, 2602–2604——Statements and returns showing that a Maine law would not diminish the public revenue, 2604 *et seq.* ——Reference to a pamphlet, attributed to Mr. Napier, as demonstrating the fact that less expenditure in intoxicating liquors would improve the public revenue, 2615–2617.

The increased amount of spirits distilled in Ireland since 1723, is considerably more than proportionate to the increased population; paper delivered in showing the number of gallons distilled at various dates, from 1723–1837; 2617, 2618——Slight variation in the consumption of wine in the years 1836 and 1850; 2619—— Decreased consumption of spirits in Ireland since 1835; 2619, 2620——Slight taste of the lower classes for wine as compared with spirits, 2621–2623——Large consumption of spirits on Saturday night and Sunday in Dublin, 2624, 2625——Belief that there would be no serious opposition to the closing of public-houses on Sunday in Ireland, 2626. 2670–2672——Large number of persons in Dublin who have signed a petition for this purpose; classes to which they belong, 2626–2628——Places in Dublin which could be made applicable to the recreation of the people on Sundays, 2629, 2630——Notwithstanding the possibility of the people resorting to other places, it is desirable that licensed houses should be closed, 2631–2633.

Public-houses are now open after two o'clock in Dublin, 2634——It is not the habit of the Irish people to drink in their houses, nor to keep a stock of liquor, 2636–2639 ——Evidence in support of witness's opinion that the revenue would not suffer by the prohibition of the sale of spirituous liquors, 2640–2647——Reduced number of public-houses in Dublin since 1839; 2648——Belief that the population of Dublin has increased latterly, 2649——Calculated amount spent in spirits in Dublin and in Ireland annually, 2650——Opinion that with universal suffrage the Maine Law would be carried in twelve months, 2652–2657. 2668, 2669——Class of persons holding public-houses in Dublin, 2658.

Calculated annual saving from the disuse of intoxicating drinks in the United Kingdom, 2659–2663——Belief that travellers would not be seriously inconvenienced by the adoption of the Maine Law, 2666, 2667——Witness would recommend the entire prohibition of the manufacture of intoxicating drinks (except for medicinal and artistic purposes),

Haughton, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

poses), and the importation of foreign liquors, 2675–2679. 2685——Unadvisableness of carrying any measure in opposition to popular opinion, 2680——The Maine law does not at all interfere with individuals in their private houses, but merely prohibits the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks, 2681–2684——Reference to the good effects of teetotalism among the workmen of the Knockmahon Mines, 2685.

Hawes, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was for some years connected with a brewery in London, 4502——Defects in the present system of licensing; alterations suggested, 4503–4507. 4548. 4587–4590. 4607 *et seq.* 4732——Large proportion of licensed victuallers who are in some measure dependent on their brewers; ill effects of this system, 4508 *et seq.*——There are about 6,000 or 7,000 licensed victuallers' houses in London, 4509——Manner in which brewers are interested in licences being granted, 4512–4533——No distinction is made with regard to houses belonging to brewers, with respect to supervision by the police, 4534. 4636, 4637——It is to the advantage of the brewers to have those houses in which they are interested well conducted; difficulty of insuring this in low neighbourhoods, 4535, 4536——The brewers are more interested in the quantity of beer consumed than the quality of the article supplied, 4537–4542——The value of a public-house depends upon the total amount taken, 4543.

Extent to which the trade of a licensed victualler may be considered a monopoly, 4545–4547——The frequent transfer of houses is caused in a great measure by the large sums given for them, 4544. 4550–4552——The number of public-houses is at present more limited than if the trade was thrown open; advantages in opening the trade under certain regulations, 4549. 4553–4560. 4563. 4630–4635——Public-houses should be under the control of the Board of Inland Revenue and the police, 4561. 4587. 4621–4623. 4650, 4651. 4732——The magistrates should be released altogether from their present duties with respect to licences, 4562——Many beerhouses would obtain licences, 4564–4567——Necessity of publicans and beershop-keepers diluting their beer to supply the public at a cheap rate; manner in which it is diluted, 4568–4579——Importance attached by the brewers to the present system of licensing, 4580, 4581——Slight effect of the Beer Act on the value of public-house property, 4582–4585.

How far it would be advisable to grant licences to persons, instead of to houses, 4591–4593——The fear of losing the licence is a greater check on misconduct than an increased sum being paid for it, 4592–4598——Forfeiture of the licence should be exacted more readily, 4592. 4599, 4600——Greater vigilance required in the inspection of public-houses by the police; there is no necessity for special constables being appointed for this duty, 4601–4606. 4733——Increased value of a house on a licence being obtained, 4608–4610——Lucrative character of a well conducted public-house, 4612–4614——The profits on wines and spirits are much more considerable than on beer, 4615–4620——Non-distinction between licences would not necessarily abolish beerhouses, 4624, 4625——The interest of the publican would induce him to provide proper accommodation for his customers, without any provision on the subject, 4626–4629.

Belief that the increased number of public-houses consequent on the trade being thrown open, would not materially increase drunkenness, under a proper system of supervision by the police, 4630–4635——It would be advisable that a bond should be taken for the good conduct of a house, and rigidly enforced, 4638, 4639——The profits of a public-house are frequently overrated, 4640——The majority of the applications for licences are made by parties put in by the builders of the houses, with a view to their increased saleable value, 4641–4647——Small number of appeals from the decision of the magistrates with respect to licences, 4648, 4649——Great caution requisite in changing the system of licensing, so as to interfere as little as possible with vested interests, 4652–4657——Opinion that closing public-houses on Sunday would not be injurious to the respectable publicans; the low class of houses would suffer most, 4658–4662——Slight extent to which the brewers would be affected, 4663.

Improved character of the working classes since public-houses have been closed on Sunday mornings, 4664–4668. 4700–4705——Suggested hours during which public-houses should be open on Sundays, 4669–4674——Much drunkenness takes place after seven o'clock in the evening, 4675–4677. 4679——The law is much evaded at the present time with regard to the sale of liquors on Sunday mornings, 4678——Necessity of recreation being provided for the working classes, if public-houses are closed on Sundays; suggestions on this point, 4681–4699. 4730——Mixed feeling of the middle classes with regard to the propriety of opening places for recreation on Sundays, 4693–4694——Feeling of the working classes on the subject of Sunday closing, 4700, 4701. 4715——Improved habits of the lower classes generally of late years, 4700–4703.

Disapproval of public-houses being entirely closed on Sunday, 4706, 4707. 4717——Difficulty in dealing with travellers and inmates of hotels; an exception should certainly be made in their favour, 4708–4714.——Suggested closing of public-houses at 11 o'clock p. m. during the week, 4719–4722——Beneficial tendency of the practice adopted by many firms of paying wages on Friday, 4723, 4724——Effect of the teetotal movement in improving the character of the working classes, 4725–4727——The increased rate of

wages

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Hawes, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

wages has also had a most favourable effect, 4728, 4729——Club-houses would not come under the operation of a law affecting public-houses, 4731——Main importance of a definite systen of granting licences through the medium of a public and responsible board, 4732.

Helen's, St. Large number of public-houses at St. Helen's, a town twelve miles from Liverpool; steps taken by the magistrates to check their increase, *Neilson* 3187, 3188.

Holborn Casino. Circumstance of the proprietor having taken out a beerhouse licence, *Caldwell* 1680–1683.

Holidays. The working classes have greater facilities for getting holidays in the week than clerks and assistants in shops, *Baylee* 261–264——The working classes generally make holiday on Monday rather than on Sunday, *ib.* 261——The habit of making holiday on Monday is dying away, *Stenton* 3722–3724.

Home Consumption. Satisfactory working of the plan adopted by witness of supplying his customers with beer on Saturday night for consumption on Sunday, *Glass* 444–451. 525–528; *Chamen* 587–589. 695, 696——Beer purchased on Saturday will keep sufficiently fresh, if properly bottled, for Sunday's consumption, *Chamen* 590–594. 671–673; *Bowthorpe* 878–886; *Speechly* 4143. 4146, 4147——Probability of the working classes supplying themselves with beer in bottles, &c., for Sunday's consumption, *Haddock* 702–709. 751. 753–759. 800; *Bowthorpe* 846–851. 863–866. 887; *Hutton* 2807–2812; *Wren* 2903–2905——It is not the habit of the Irish people to drink in their houses, nor to keep a stock of liquor, *Haughton* 2636–2639.

The beer, if provided on Saturday, would not be so good as when fresh drawn, *Hunter* 2813–2817——Impossibility of keeping ale in bottle from Saturday till Sunday in good condition, *Stinton* 3744, 3745——Belief that few people in Scotland purchase spirits on Saturday for home consumption on Sunday, *M'Callum* 4195. 4199, 4200——Brewers should be allowed to supply private families with beer of any strength, *M'Culloch* 4500.

Home-made Wines. Reference to the Excise licence for the sale of home-made wines, *Rep. p.* iv.

Homer, John James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has carried on the business of a publican and wholesale wine and spirit merchant in London for upwards of twenty years, 3860–3863. 3990——Has been presented with a memorial for his services on behalf of the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society of London, 3864, 3865——Efforts used by the society in 1836 to pass a Bill for the better regulation of public-houses, and for facilitating the transfer of licences adverted to, as showing the feeling of the trade at that date, 3867–3871. 3874——Several clauses of this Bill were subsequently embodied in the Police Act, 3872, 3873——Impossibility of carrying out a law for the entire closing of public-houses on Sundays, 3874. 3889——Loss sustained by the trade in consequence of the closing on Sunday morning, 3876. 3878——Bad state of the licensed victuallers trade at the present time, 3879–3881——Objects which induced the licensed victuallers' to support the Bill for closing on Sunday morning, 3882–3884——Present amount of drunkenness on Sunday, 3885–3888. 3895. 3934——More stringent means should be adopted for suppressing the sale of liquors at illegal hours on Sunday morning, 3885.

Great public inconvenience that would ensue if public-houses were closed entirely on Sunday, 3889–3893. 3932–3934. 3938. 3953——Particulars as to the retail plan adopted by witness in his business at Hackney, 3895–3905. 3924. 3927–3939——Reference made in an almanack published by witness to the excise laws prohibiting a wholesale dealer from selling less than two gallons of spirits, 3906–3914——Slight public inconvenience of this restriction, 3915–3920. 3925——Objection to the Maraschino Bill, relative to the sale of less than two gallons; grounds upon which the Bill was supported by Mr. Wood, the chairman of Excise, 3916, 3917. 3920——The plan adopted by witness has given general satisfaction, and has removed one of the principal arguments in favour of the Maraschino Bill, 3920. 3926. 3931——Approval of the prohibition to sell less than two gallons of spirits, 3922, 3923. 3925——Large amount paid by witness for licences, 3924——Facility of obtaining signatures to petitions for closing on Sunday, 3934, 3935. 3954–3956.

Hours during which witness's house at Hackney is closed on Sundays; diminution of his previous receipts in consequence, 3938–3942——The hours for closing in London on Sunday vary in different localities; greater uniformity is required, 3943–3949——Belief that but slight objection would be raised by the trade to closing from three to six o'clock, 3948——Different feelings of the publicans on the question before the Committee, 3951, 3952——Belief that great opposition would be made to the passing of a Bill for closing on Sunday; reasons assigned for no petitions being got up against Sunday closing, 3594–3956. 3962–3964——Impossibility of correctly judging of the popular opinion by the attendance at public meetings, 3957, 3958. 3961——Circumstance of witness having been assaulted and insulted at a teetotal meeting at Hackney adverted to, 3957, 3958——Two tradesmen in Hackney recovered damages for being taken into custody for an alleged disturbance at a similar meeting, 3858. 3960.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Homer, John James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Licences for beerhouses should be granted by the magistrates, and be under their control, in the same manner as public-houses, 3966–3975——Objections to a licence being given to the publican instead of to the house, 3976–3981——Exemption of the magistrates in the Tower Hamlets district from any charge of partiality and favouritism in the granting of licences; cases in illustration of their impartiality, 3981–4007——Belief that the number of houses belonging to brewers is much over estimated, 4008. 4012, 4013. 4020——Denial by Mr. Robert Hanbury of certain statements made before the committee by Mr. Bishop, 4012.

Belief that it is impossible to supply genuine beer at 3*d.* per pot, 4014–4019. 4037, 4038. 4054, 4055——Manner in which the cheap beer is diluted, 4017–4019. 4031–4036——The greater portion of publicans retail the beer as received from the brewers, 4019. 4021——The late rise in beer has enabled the publicans to supply a better article than formerly, 4022, 4023——Amber is supplied by the small brewers as beer; description of this article, 4024, 4025. 4049–5053——Necessity of diluting the beer to enable publicans to supply a cheap article to a certain class of customers, 4028–4032. 4037——How far the brewers are interested in their beer being sold genuine, 4041–4043. 4047. 4049–4051——Circumstance of Messrs. Hanbury objecting to their beer being sold at 3*d.* per pot, 4043, 4044.

The value of the goodwill of a public-house does not depend upon the quantity of beer sold, but on the amount of profits, 4047, 4048——Beneficial effect of the system of suspending a licence in certain cases, 4056–4059——Belief that punishing the customer as well as the publican would be an effectual method of preventing infractions of the law on Sundays, 4059, 4060——Suggestion that a certain number of persons be specially appointed to inspect public-houses on Sunday, 4061——Necessity of the law being more rigorously administered with respect to Sunday trading, 4063–4066——The police should be empowered to inspect public-houses, and to enter a house when requested by the landlord, 4067–4074.

Howarth, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been engaged on an inquiry as to the number of persons entering public-houses in Manchester on Sundays, 1983–1986——Manner in which the particulars have been compiled, 1987–1991——Number of spirit vaults, public-houses, and beershops that are open on Sunday in Manchester, and number of visits (distinguishing men, women, and children,) made to them in the course of the day, 1992–2000——Large amount of drinking on Sunday, in proportion to the population, 2001–2003——Number of policemen entering public-houses while on duty, 2004. 2026——Number and class of persons frequenting a singing saloon at a beershop in Manchester; attractions of this place, 2005–2010——The majority of children attending public-houses on Sunday go for the purpose of fetching liquors, 2011, 2012.

Hours during which public-houses are open on Sunday at Manchester, 2013–2015——Large proportion of persons frequenting public-houses between half-past four and ten o'clock; 2016——Reference to the beerhouses and spirit vaults; low class of persons resorting thither on Sunday, 2017. 2042–2044——Belief that the police seen to enter public-houses went for the purpose of drinking, 2018–2023——Conduct of persons attending the public-houses on Sunday, 2024, 2025——Opinion that a large majority of the working men of Manchester are in favour of closing on Sunday, 2029–2034——No general resistance would be made if public-houses were closed after three o'clock, 2035——Many publicans are in favour of closing altogether on Sunday, 2036–2038——Licensed public-houses frequented by the middle classes are more respectably conducted than spirit vaults or beerhouses, 2039–2041——Small proportion of the number of cases of drunkenness at Manchester on Sunday which are brought before the magistrates; cause to which this is attributable, 2045–2055——Comparative appearance of the low streets in Liverpool and Manchester, 2056–2059——Number and conduct of the police in Manchester, 2060–2063.

Grounds for the opinion that drunkenness and crime are on the increase in Manchester, 2065–2067——Spirit vaults and beershops have greatly increased in the last thirteen years, 2068–2070——Disapproval of the present system of licensing, 2071–2078——Circumstance of a resolution having been passed at a public meeting in Manchester for the closing of public-houses on Sunday; class of persons at this meeting, which was numerously attended, 2079–2086——Slight inconvenience to the working classes in public-houses being closed on Sunday, 2087–2091——Witness is not aware of any opposition to the movement for closing them, 2092–2095——Belief that the town council has the power of allowing public-houses to open at half-past twelve on Sunday for the convenience of the public, 2096–2102.

Hull. Letter received by witness in 1853 from the superintendent of police at Hull, showing the benefits resulting from the partial closing of public-houses on Sunday, *Baylee* 230–232.

Hunter, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Secretary to the Retail Brewers' Protection Society, in Birmingham, 2781——Keeps an eating-house and beershop; has a large business on Sundays, 2783–2795. 2834–2836——Belief that closing beershops on Sundays

Hunter, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

days would not improve the morals of the working classes, and would be very injurious to the proprietors, 2783. 2790-2792. 2806. 2825-2831——Hours during which beer is mostly sold on Sunday, 2785. 2789——Witness has never been taken before the magistrates during the twenty-two years he has kept a beerhouse, 2785. 2787——It is not the practice in Birmingham to close after half-past twelve on Sunday, 2786——Belief that the working classes would obtain beer illegally if the sale were prohibited on Sunday, 2792. 2806. 2810. 2854-2857——Tradesmen whose shops are open on Sunday morning at Birmingham, 2796-2801——Inconvenience felt by witness from not having a spirit licence, 2803. 2805——Possibility of the working classes supplying themselves on Saturday with beer in bottles, &c., for Sunday's consumption, 2807-2812——The beer would not be so good as when fresh drawn, 2813-2817.

Beneficial effect of the Act closing public-houses till half-past twelve o'clock on Sunday, 2817, 2818. 2822-2825. 2827——All houses should be closed at twelve o'clock every night, except those in the immediate vicinity of a railway, 2819, 2820——Suggestion that a licence for wines and spirits should be more easily obtainable, subject to qualifications as to character and rental, and that such licences be granted by the Excise, 2837-2843. 2853——Witness is not aware of any violation of the law with regard to the rating of beershops in Birmingham, 2844-2853.

Hush-shops. See *Oldham. Rochdale.*

Hutton, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Chairman of the petty sessions of the Wandsworth bench of magistrates, 1454-1458——Difficulty felt by the magistrates in granting licences for public-houses, 1459-1462——Belief that the discontinuance of the licensing system would greatly increase the number of public-houses, but that ultimately the want would regulate the supply, 1463, 1464——Impartial steps taken by the magistrates at Wandsworth to ascertain the requirements of the neighbourhood and character of the persons applying for licences, 1465-1467. 1484. 1532-1536. 1569, 1570——There is generally a bench of six or eight magistrates when licences are granted, 1468. 1481, 1482——Belief that the bench are unanimous in the opinion that more efficient control should be vested in the police and magistrates as to the conduct of public-houses, 1469, 1470. 1503——The bench suspend the licence of those houses that are reported by the police to have convictions against them, 1471-1474. 1480. 1518.

Offences for which public-houses are generally convicted, 1476——The police have no power to inquire into the character of the publican, or the mode in which public-houses are conducted, 1477-1479——The granting of licences is decided by vote, 1483——Magistrates having any interest in the licensing of a public-house do not sit, 1485-1487——Applications are frequently made by interested parties against licences being granted, 1488-1490——Slight effect of these applications on the bench, 1491——Witness has always discouraged private applications by interested parties, 1492-1495——The value of a house is greatly increased on obtaining a licence, 1496-1499. 1546, 1547——Disapproval of the facility with which a beer licence can be obtained, 1501, 1502——Suggestion that substantial security be given on licences being granted, 1503. 1549-1553.

Recommended summary mode of conviction on houses being improperly conducted, 1503——Belief that most magistrates would like to be relieved from the responsibility attached to the present system of licensing, 1504-1506——Suggested power of the police to enter licensed houses at all times, and report regularly as to the manner in which they are conducted, 1507-1509. 1515, 1516. 1554, 1555. 1557-1559. 1561, 1562——Advantage of closing public-houses on Sunday, and extending and encouraging rational amusements for the people, 1510-1513——Quotation from the Act of 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 85, s. 7, relative to the power of entry by the police into public-houses and beershops, 1514——Average number of suspensions at Wandsworth on licensing day, 1518-1520. 1541——Rule with regard to the withdrawal of licences, 1521-1523. 1529-1531——Convictions against beershops do not come before the Wandsworth bench of magistrates, 1524, 1525. 1537-1548.

Effect of the suspension of a licence, 1526-1528. 1541, 1542——Frequent applications made at Wandsworth by owners of houses for licences, 1545-1548——Reference to the system of inspection adopted with regard to lodging-houses, 1556-1560——Approval of a system for fining customers found in public-houses at illegal times on Sunday, 1563-1566——Public-houses should not be entirely closed on Sunday, 1567, 1568——Difficulty of adopting a fixed rule as to granting licences in proportion to the population, 1569, 1570.

I.

Illegal Practices. See *Evasions of the Law.*

Illicit Spirits. Opportunities of publicans for selling illicitly-distilled spirits, *M'Culloch* 4486-4488.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Imports. Imports in an adulterated state should be prohibited from passing the customs, and be returned to the port whence they came, *Hassall* 4368, 4369.

Inspection. Necessity of appointing special inspectors of public-houses, with a salary placing them above temptation, *Balfour* 1211, 1212; *Wren* 2955, 2956; *Richardson* 3645. 3650——Advantage of increasing the amount of the licence, as supplying a fund applicable to the independent inspection of public-houses, *Neilson* 3192. 3208——Suggested plan for the inspection of public-houses, *ib.* 3223–3225——Suggestion that a certain number of persons be specially appointed to inspect public-houses on Sunday, *Homer* 4061——Greater vigilance required in the inspection of public-houses by the police; there is no necessity for special constables being appointed for this duty, *Hawes* 4601–4606. 4733.

The Committee recommend the appointment of inspectors, *Rep. p.* xv——Resolution, that in large towns and populous places there should be appointed inspectors of public-houses, and all places of public refreshment and entertainment, as in the case of common lodging-houses; and that such inspectors should constantly visit and report upon the condition and conduct of all such houses and places, *ib.* xxvi——Resolution, that in all cases of drunkenness and riotous or disorderly conduct, such inspectors should, if necessary, have power to call in the assistance of the police, *ib.*——Resolution, that houses already licensed should be visited and reported upon by inspectors of public-houses, and should be subject to the same police regulations as are proposed with regard to future licences, *ib.* xxvii.——*See* also *Coffee Shops. Control. Police.*

Intemperance. See *Drunkenness.*

Ipswich. Circumstance of the public-houses at Ipswich being all closed on Sunday, except for two hours in the middle of the day, *Haddock* 828–835.

Ireland. Facilities for obtaining spirits in Ireland, *Haughton* 2578, 2579. 2640——Grounds upon which witness founds his opinion that the entire prohibition of the sale of spirits would meet with but slight opposition in Ireland; expediency of such prohibition, *ib.* 2580–2585. 2635–2645. 2657. 2664, 2665. 2668, 2669. 2685——Increased amount of the excise receipts since 1840, *ib.* 2588, 2589——Increased consumption of whiskey since 1842, *ib.* 2589–2592. 2601——Great success of the temperance movement in 1842; beneficial effect on the population, *ib.* 2590–2600. 2610——Large increase in the paper manufacture in Ireland adverted to, *ib.* 2604——List of duties on spirits, tea, sugar, and tobacco in each of the years 1836–1853, as showing the increased consumption of other articles, when the consumption of spirits has been small, *ib.* 2604–2609. 2612, 2613.

The increased amount of spirits distilled in Ireland since 1723 is considerably more than proportionate to the increased population; paper delivered in, showing the number of gallons distilled at various dates, from 1723 to 1837, *Haughton* 2617, 2618——Slight variation in the consumption of wine in the years 1836 and 1850, *ib.* 2619——Decreased consumption of spirits since 1835, *ib.* 2619, 2620——Slight taste of the lower classes for wine, as compared with spirits, *ib.* 2621–2623——Belief that there would be no serious opposition to the closing of public-houses on Sunday in Ireland, *ib.* 2626. 2670–2672——Increased consumption of manufactured goods in Ireland, in proportion as the consumption of spirits decreased, *ib.* 2645–2647——Calculated amount spent in spirits in Dublin and in Ireland annually, *ib.* 2650.——*See* also *Dublin. Grocers.*

Irish Labourers. Laxity of Irish Roman-catholic labourers with regard to the Sabbath adverted to; general habits of this class, *Wood* 1122–1126——How far the large number of Irish domiciled in Manchester might oppose the recommended closing on Sunday, *Wright* 2291–2294.

Islington. Large proportion of publicans in Islington who signed a petition for closing altogether on Sundays, *Maber* 295. 328. 331, 332——General time of closing at Islington during the week, *ib.* 358——Satisfactory system of licensing at Islington, *ib.* 360, 361. 367, 368——Disorderly character of the people in the public-houses and beershops in the vicinity of Old-street-road and Goswell-street on Sunday afternoon, *Balfour* 4759–4761.

J.

Jackson, Thomas Ridley. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is a beerseller and brewer, and chairman of the Retail Brewers' Association of Birmingham, 2686, 2687——The entire closing of public-houses on Sunday would be injurious to the proprietors, and inconvenient to the public, 2689–2698——2712–2715. 2719. 2768–2770——Practice in regard to the closing of the public-houses and beerhouses; alteration suggested, 2691–2695. 2771–2773——Probability of drink being obtained in an illegal manner if public-houses are closed on Sundays, 2695. 2698. 2704–2706——The majority of the beersellers in Birmingham brew their own beer, 2699. 2775–2778——Number of beersellers in Birmingham, and proportion who are members of the association, 2700. 2727. 2750——Probability of a greater amount of drinking taking place if public-houses were closed on Sunday

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Jackson, Thomas Ridley. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Sunday than under the present system, 2701–2712. 2763——Attractions and character of the beerhouses in Birmingham, 2720–2724. 2745——Objects of the Retail Brewers' Association, 2746, 2747——Amount of subscriptions, 2725——Inconvenience to beer-shop-keepers in the difficulty of obtaining a licence for spirits; advantage of such licence being granted, 2727–2743.

Number of years that the Retail Brewers' Association has existed; its effect on the beersellers, 2748, 2749——Wages at Birmingham generally paid on the premises of the employer on Friday afternoon, 2751, 2752——Slight amount of drinking in the beer-houses and public-houses on Sunday evenings, 2753–2756——Recreation of the working classes at Birmingham, 2757——Working men of Birmingham in attending beerhouses are seldom accompanied by their wives and families, 2758–2762——Witness does not open his house till six o'clock on Sunday afternoon, 2765–2767——Witness has never had any difficulty in clearing his house at eleven o'clock, 2774. 2779.

James, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Superintendent of Police at Leeds, 3239——Attends the Committee on behalf of the licensed victuallers of Leeds; points upon which he is competent to give evidence, 3240–3242. 3354, 3355——Disapproval of the present system of licensing beerhouses, as tending to encourage vice, 3245——Suggestion for abolishing beerhouses, and giving absolute power of controul to the licensing magistrates over all public-houses, 3246–3248. 3336, 3337——Offences in beerhouses are more numerous than in public-houses; particulars on this point with regard to Leeds, 3249–3259——Serious character of the offences brought against some beerhouse-keepers, 3253–3256——Willingness of the magistrates to grant licences to beerhouses, provided the application is in accordance with the wants of the district, 3260–3262—Increasing number of licensed houses in Leeds, 3263, 3264——Steps taken by the magistrates to ascertain the requirements of the neighbourhood before granting a licence, 3265–3267. 3334. 3338. 3361——Rarity of offences being charged against licensed victuallers, 3268, 3269.

Publicans generally brew their own beer at Leeds, 3271, 3272. 3275——Class of persons to whom the public-houses and beerhouses belong, 3273–3276——Objection of the magistrates to grant licences to persons who are not the *bonâ fide* occupants of the houses, 3277——Beerhouse licences are frequently granted to parties otherwise engaged in trade, 3278–3280——Slight amount of drunkenness in Leeds; great improvement in this respect of late years, 3281–3285. 3312——Large number of persons who visited the Botanical Gardens at Leeds at Whitsuntide, 3286–3288——These gardens are attended on Sunday by the labouring men and their families; orderly character of the visitors, 3289–3292——Members of friendly societies at Leeds are in the habit of attending the lodges on Sunday evening, accompanied by their wives and families, 3293–3296——The dram-shops or gin-palaces are closed on Sundays by a voluntary agreement of the proprietors, 3296. 3300, 3301——Belief that the majority of the working classes and publicans of Leeds are unfavourable to closing public-houses on Sunday, 3297–3299.

Price of admission to the Botanical Gardens, which are a private speculation; large extent thereof, 3302–3308——Inconvenience of closing public-houses on Sunday to excursionists, 3309–3311——Belief that the high rate of wages at Sheffield is the cause of the large amount of drunkenness there as compared with Leeds, 3313–3315——Increased amount of drunkenness and crime when trade is flourishing, 3316–3323——Insufficiency of the present number of police at Leeds, 3324–3326——Appointment of the police by the members of the Watch Committee, 3327–3330——Large number of licences transferred in Leeds in the course of a year, 3333——Belief that Leeds is overstocked with public-houses, 3333–3335——Few robberies are committed in the public-houses and beer-shops, 3339–3342——Particulars as to the places of amusement at Leeds, and the manner in which they are conducted, 3343–3353——Witness was selected by the committee of licensed victuallers at Leeds to give evidence before the Committee, on account of his experience on the subject, 3356–3359——Area and population of Leeds, 3359.

The convictions are laid before the magistrates on licensing day, 3360——Immoral practice at a certain beerhouse in Leeds; manner in which it was detected by witness, 3363–3367——Notwithstanding the conviction in this case, a licence was granted to the same parties within nine months, 3368–3374——Belief that a certificate of the convictions was sent by the magistrates to the Excise, 3375–3381——Importance of the summons specifying the number of convictions, 3383–3385. 3388–3392——There is no difficulty in proving a third conviction, 3386, 3387——Disreputable character of some of the temperance houses at Leeds, 3392–3394. 3398–3400——Beneficial effect of coffee-houses being licensed, and power of inspection being given to the police, 3395, 3396. 3401, 3402——At present the police have no power to enter coffee-houses unless there is a disturbance, 3393. 3397.

Jews. Temperate habits of the majority of the Jews adverted to, *Balfour* 1447–1453.

Judge and Jury Clubs. Terms of admission to the judge and jury clubs in London, *Balfour* 1445–1446.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Juvenile Offenders. Large proportion of juvenile depravity and delinquency attributable to the drunken habits of parents, *Bryon* 1047–1053. 1060–1064——Impossibility of reforming juvenile offenders unless they are removed from their parents, *Wright* 2138–2140.

K.

Katherine's, St., Docks. Adulteration practised by a publican in the neighbourhood of St. Katherine's Docks adverted to; ingredients used for this purpose, *M'Culloch*, 4393–4397. 4448–4450.

Kennington. Large number of working people in this district, *Thornburgh* 4111–4113—— Crowded state of the gin-palaces and public-houses on Sunday evenings, *ib.* 4114–4119 ——How far the public-houses being open may affect the attendance at church, *ib.* 4120–4127.

Kew Gardens. Large number of persons who visited Kew Gardens on Sunday last year, *Sir J. Paxton*, 3153, 3154.

Knockmahon Mines (*Ireland*). Reference to the good effects of teetotalism among the workmen at these mines, *Haughton* 2685.

L.

Lambeth. Disreputable character of persons frequenting public-houses in Lambeth on Sunday, *Bryon* 1060–1067——The public-houses are frequently open after 12 o'clock on Saturday night, *ib.* 1078.

Lancashire. Return from the Lancashire constabulary, showing the number of persons apprehended and summoned for drunkenness in the different divisions of the county for the six months prior and the six months subsequent to the passing of the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 49, *Cunliffe* 2310, and *App. p.* 284–286——There is a decrease in the second six months of about 30 per cent., *Cunliffe* 2312–2317. 2320.

Belief that frequent evasion of the required rating of beerhouses takes place in the outlying districts of Lancashire, *Neilson* 3202–3206——Frequent complaints made of the beerhouses in Lancashire under the existing system, *ib.* 3207–3209. 3220–3222—— Sufficiency of the number of public-houses if the beerhouses were prohibited, *ib.* 3215.

Lang, Benjamin. Suggestions and considerations by Mr. Lang, proprietor of concert rooms, in Manchester, *App. p.* 289, 290.

Leeds:

1. *System of Licensing.*
2. *Sunday Closing objected to.*
3. *Botanical Gardens, &c.*
4. *Other Evidence generally.*

1. *System of Licensing:*

Willingness of the magistrates to grant licences to beerhouses provided the application is in accordance with the wants of the district, *James* 3260–3262——Increasing number of licensed houses in Leeds, *ib.* 3263, 3264——Steps taken by the magistrates to ascertain the requirements of the neighbourhood before granting a licence, *ib.* 3265–3267. 3334–3338. 3361——Objection of the magistrates to grant licences to persons who are not *bonâ fide* occupants of the houses, *ib.* 3277.

Beerhouse licences are frequently granted to parties otherwiso engaged in trade, *James* 3278–3280——The convictions are laid before the magistrates on licensing day, *ib.* 3360 ——Immoral practices at a certain beerhouse adverted to; manner in which it was detected by witness, *ib.* 3363–3367——Notwithstanding the conviction in this case, a licence was granted to the same parties within nine months, *ib.* 3368–3374——Belief that a certificate of the convictions was sent by the magistrates to the Excise, *ib.* 3375–3381.

2. *Sunday Closing objected to:*

Belief that the majority of the working classes and publicans at Leeds are unfavourable to closing the public-houses on Sunday, *James* 3297–3299——Objections of the licensed victuallers to public-houses being closed on Sunday, as interfering greatly with the interests of the publicans, *Spirett* 3409–3413. 3482——Inconvenience of such a measure to the public, *ib.* 3412–3416. 3424–3426——Slight amount of drunkenness at Leeds on Sunday, *ib.* 3417–3420. 3422, 3423——Respectable character of the licensed victuallers there, *ib.* 3421——Large number of persons who resort to the public-houses on Sunday, *ib.* 3424——Proportion of the publicans who are members of the licensed victuallers' association, *ib.* 3475, 3476——Belief that the publicans are unanimously in favour of keeping their houses open on Sunday, *ib.* 3480, 3481. 3493——Witness is not aware of the beersellers having taken any part against the closing movement, *ib.* 3494–3497.

3. *Botanical*

LEEDS—continued.

3. *Botanical Gardens, &c.*

Large number of persons who visited the Botanical Gardens at Whitsuntide, *James* 3286–3288——The gardens are attended on Sunday by the labouring men and their families; orderly character of the visitors, *ib.* 3289-3292——Price of admission to the gardens, which are a private speculation; large extent thereof, *ib.* 3302–3308——Particulars as to the places of amusement generally at Leeds, and the manner in which they are conducted, *ib.* 3343-3353.

4. *Other Evidence generally:*

Offences in beerhouses are more numerous than in public-houses; particulars on this point, *James* 3249-3259——Rarity of offences being charged against licensed victuallers, *ib.* 3268, 3269——The publicans generally brew their own beer, *ib.* 3271, 3272. 3275——Class of persons to whom the public-houses and beerhouses belong, *ib.* 3273–3276.

Slight amount of drunkenness in Leeds; great improvement in this respect of late years, *James* 3281-3285. 3312——Members of friendly societies are in the habit of attending the lodges on Sunday evening accompanied by their wives and families, *ib.* 3293-3296——The dramshops or gin-palaces are closed on Sunday by a voluntary agreement of the proprietors, *ib.* 3296. 3300, 3301——Insufficiency of the present number of police, *ib.* 3324-3326——Appointment of the police by the members of the watch committee, *ib.* 3327-3330.

Belief that Leeds is overstocked with public-houses, *James* 3333. 3335——Few robberies committed in the public-houses and beershops, *ib.* 3339–3342——Area and population of Leeds, *ib.* 3359——Disreputable character of some of the temperance houses, *ib.* 3392-3394. 3398-3400.

See also *Public Meetings.* *Temperance Festivals.*

Leeds Rational Recreation Society. Success of the society adverted to, *Balfour* 1301, 1302. 1411–1414.

Lees, F. R., L. L. D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Extensive acquaintance of witness with the working classes in the chief towns of the United Kingdom, 4220, 4221——Reference to a public meeting held at Leeds, as showing the favourable feeling of the people in that town, with regard to closing public-houses on Sundays, 4221–4223. 4235——Result of a public meeting held at the Music Hall, Leeds, for the purpose of discussing the Maine law, 4223. 4225-4230——Number and class of persons attending this meeting, 4231–4234——Large number of public meetings attended by witness during the last six months, in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday, 4235, 4236——Favourable feeling of the public in general evidenced by no opposition being offered by the large number of persons attending these meetings, 4235-4238——Belief that a law entirely prohibiting the sale of liquors would be well received by the working classes, 4239-4241.

Operation of the Maine law in several states in America, 4244——Slight extent to which it is evaded, 4245-4248——Class of persons who are dissatisfied with it, 4249–4253——It is the result of municipal legislation; possibility of passing such a law in a similar manner in England, 4254-4258——Importance attached to total abstinence by the majority of Americans; large proportion of the higher classes who are total abstainers, 4259-4264——Support given to an alliance established for the purpose of creating and organizing public opinion on the subject of the entire prohibition of the sale of liquors in England, 4265, 4266——Belief that a greater amount of drunkenness takes place on Sunday afternoons and evenings than at any other time during the week, 4267–4269——Beneficial effect in Scotland of public-houses being closed on Sunday, 4270, 4271.

Opinion that drunkenness is not much more prevalent in Scotland than in England; evidence in support of this opinion, 4272-4283——The apprehensions by the police must not be taken as evidence of the amount of drunkenness in England, 4282——Manner in which Sunday is generally spent by the people in the United States, 4284-4286——No places of recreation are provided for the people, 4287-4290——The Sabbath is more strictly observed in those states in which the Maine law is in operation, 4291, 4292——Advantage of providing recreation unconnected with drinking on Sunday, 4293-4297. 4300. 4301——A greater amount of labour is necessary in keeping open the public-houses than would be required in gardens, &c., for recreation, 4302.

LICENCES:

1. *System hitherto pursued; how far defective.*
2. *Sundry Amendments sugested.*

1. *System hitherto pursued; how far defective:*

Favouritism occasionally in granting licences in London, *Maber* 362-365——There is no necessity for any alteration in the law, so as to render licences more easily obtainable, *ib.* 368-372——Objections to licences being granted to individuals instead of to houses, *Maber* 427-432; *Stinton* 3856-3859; *Homer* 3976-3981——Satisfactory working of the present

Report, 1854—*continued.*

LICENCES—continued.

1. *System hitherto pursued; how far defective*—continued.

present system of licensing, *Glass* 541–543. 550——Large number of applications for licences. *ib.* 548, 549. 551——Defects of the present system of licensing, *Hutton* 1504–1506; *Howarth* 2071–2078; *Hawes* 4503——Witness does not anticipate any benefit from increasing the amount of the licence, *Everett* 3065–3068.

Particulars as to the mode of granting licences at Manchester; belief that favouritism is often shown by the magistrates, *Richardson* 3632–3639. 3651–3660——Eagerness of persons generally to become licensed victuallers or beersellers, *Stinton* 3759, 3760——Present power of the magistrates with respect to the forfeiture of licences, *ib.* 3848–3852 Circumstance of a licence being guaranteed to a certain house in London, if a publican will take it, *M'Culloch* 4473–4477——Disapproval of the present licensing system, on account of favouritism and the great influence of brewers and distillers, *ib.* 4462–4464. 4471–4473——Small number of appeals from the decision of the magistrates with respect to licences, *Hawes* 4648, 9649.

Different persons entitled, either by licence or some equivalent sanction, to supply the public with intoxicating liquors, *Rep. p.* iii——System in regard to granting licences to publicans, *ib.* iii, iv——Provisions under which certificates or licences are granted by the magistrates, *ib.* iv——Evils of distinction between beershops and public-houses, *ib.* vii.

2. *Sundry Amendments suggested:*

Suggestion that licences should only be granted to men of good character, *Weylland* 97, 98. 151. 155, 156——Belief that magistrates would like to be relieved from the responsibility attached to the present system of licensing, *Hutton* 1504–1506——Objection to the facility with which public-houses are established; legislation should tend to the absolute prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, *Cunliffe* 2403–2408. 2456————The licence should invariably be withdrawn on a second offence, *ib.* 2409——Licences for beerhouses should be granted by the magistrates, and be under their control, in the same manner as public-houses, *Wren* 2958–2960. 2992–2994; *Stinton* 3762. 3768 *et seq.*; *Homer* 3966–3975.

Suggested amendments in the law with respect to the granting of licences, *M'Culloch* 4501; *Hawes* 4503. 4507, 4548. 4587 *et seq.*——The licence should be granted to the man, and not to the house, *M'Culloch* 4501——Evils of there being no definite rule in the mode of granting licences in London, *Hawes* 4505–4507. 4548. 4732——Inexpediency of the present classification of licences, *ib.* 4587–4590. 4624, 4625.

The magistrates should be released altogether from their present duties with respect to licences, *Hawes* 4562——How far it would be advisable to grant licences to persons instead of to houses, *ib.* 4591–4593——Main importance of a definite system of granting licences through the medium of a public and responsible Board, *ib.* 4732——Considerations and suggestions laid before the Committee by parties not attending as witnesses, *App. p.* 288–292.

The Committee recommend the distinction between beershop and public-house licences to be discontinued, *Rep. p.* xi, xii——Quotation of opinions in favour of the clause, *ib.* xi——Inquiry by magistrates should be limited to character of applicant and validity of sureties, *ib.* xiii——Coffee-shops, temperance hotels, and other places of public refreshment should have licences, *ib.* xxiii. xxvi.

Resolution that uniform licences should be issued by the magistrates at sessions holden for that purpose, *Rep. p.* xxvi——Resolution that no intoxicating drink should be sold without a licence, *ib*——Resolution that there should be one uniform licence for the sale of intoxicating drinks, *ib*——Resolution that it should be open to all persons of good character to obtain such licence on compliance with certain conditions and the payment of a certain annual sum, *ib.*

Resolution that the lowest amount to be paid for a licence should, in rural parises and small towns, be 6*l.*; in towns or parishes exceeding 5,000, and not exceeding 10,000 inhabitants, it should be 8*l.*; and that above 10,000 the price should be increased 2*l.* for every 5,000 inhabitants; but that in no case should the price exceed 30*l.*, *Rep. p.* xxvi——Resolution that such publicans and beershop-keepers as are already licensed should not be required to find sureties nor to pay any higher scale of duties than they are at present required to pay, and should be entitled to the renewal of the licence in every respect as at present, *ib.* xxvii.

See also *Beershops. Birmingham*, 1. *Board of Inland Revenue. Brewers. Builders. Coffee-shops. Dancing Rooms. Evasions of the Law. Leeds. Lord Chamberlain. Merthyr Tydvil*, 1. *Monopoly. Population. Quarter Sessions. Rating. Sureties. Suspension of Licence. Theatres, &c. Tower Hamlets. Transfer of Licence. Vested Interests. Wandsworth. Wholesale Dealers. Wire, Mr. Alderman. Withdrawal of Licence. Woolton, Lancashire.*

Licensed

Licensed Victuallers, London. Efforts made by the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society in 1836, to pass a Bill for the better regulation of public-houses, and for facilitating the transfer of licences adverted to, as showing the feeling of the trade at that time, *Homer* 3867-3871. 3874——Several clauses of this Bill were subsequently embodied in the Police Act, *ib.* 3872, 3873——Bad state of the licensed victuallers' trade at the present time, *ib.* 3879-3881——Objects which induced the licensed victuallers to support the Bill for closing on Sunday morning, *ib.* 3882-3884——There are about 6,000 or 7,000 licensed victuallers' houses in London, *Hawes* 4509.

Liverpool. Return of the number of cases of drunkenness at Liverpool, distinguishing those taken during Sunday, for the years 1841 to 1844, *Baylee* 230——Letter received by witness in 1853 from the superintendent of police, showing the benefits resulting from the partial closing of public-houses on Sunday, *ib.* 230-232——Cases of riotous drunkenness, calling for the interposition of the police, are much more numerous in Liverpool than Manchester, *Card* 1894-1900——Comparative appearance of the low streets in Liverpool and Manchester, *Howarth* 2056-2059——Large amount of drunkenness in Liverpool as compared with Birmingham and Manchester, showing the evil of indiscriminate licensing, *Stinton* 3809, 3810.

Lodgers. Public-houses receive lodgers in some parts of London, *Maber* 335-337; *Glass* 552, 553——Necessity of lodgers in public-houses being supplied with refreshment on Sunday, *Chamen* 693, 694.

Lodging-houses. System of inspection adopted with regard to lodging-houses adverted to, *Hutton* 1556-1560.

London City Mission. Opportunities of witness, as a London City Missionary, for observing the conduct of persons in public-houses, *Weylland* 5-7——Manner in which witness endeavours to further the object of his mission, *ib.* 20-22——Extent to which he has been successful, *ib.* 34——It is no part of his duty to make known to the police anything that comes to his knowledge of an improper character, *ib.* 94, 95——Information obtained from destitute women who have been placed by the City Missionary Societies in asylums, *ib.* 123——How far the efforts of the society have been successful in reclaiming drunkards, *ib.* 178-180——Character and result of witness's visit to the gin-palaces, *ib.* 197-200——Influence of witness over the drunkards in his district; anticipated good results, *ib.* 207, 208.

Lord Chamberlain. Circumstance of the Lord Chamberlain and magistrates being empowered to licence all places for theatrical and other performances, *Rep. p.* xxiv——Exercise of censorship by the Lord Chamberlain adverted to, *ib.* xxv——Opinion of the Committee that an annual licence duty shall be substituted for fees or censorship, and that all places of performances shall be licensed, and all performances subject to censorship, *ib.* xxv.

Lord's-Day Observance Society. Object of this society, *Bayley* 212.

Luton, Bedfordshire. Attention paid by witness to the conduct of the drinking houses at Luton, *Balfour* 1380, 1381——Population of this place; large proportion of females, a great number of whom are employed in the straw bonnet trade, *ib.* 1381-1383. 1385——The high moral character of the females is to be attributed to the provisions made in a religious and scholastic point of view, *ib.* 1384-1386. 1403——Total number of public-houses and beershops, *ib.* 1385, 1386. 1390——Witness reported to the authorities one beerhouse which he discovered to be used as a brothel, *ib.* 1386-1389——Belief that the inhabitants are particularly temperate; causes to which attributable, *ib.* 1391-1393. 1403-1405——Attention paid to the morals of the working classes, *ib.* 1392-1393——Ample provision is made for public worship; the churches and chapels are well attended, *ib.* 1394-1397——Ample provision made for education, *ib.* 1398-1402——The beershop-keepers generally follow some trade, independently of their beerhouse, *ib.* 1406-1408.

Manufacturer of straw goods at Luton and Dunstable; large number of persons employed, *Everett* 2996-3000——Demoralizing influence of the public-houses and beershops in being open on Sundays, *ib.* 3001-3008. 3035-3039——Large number of these houses in proportion to the population, *ib.* 3005——The majority of the people, and nearly all the publicans, are favourable to the closing movement, *ib.* 3006, 3007. 3020, 3021. 3325. 3043——Evils peculiar to the lower class of beerhouses, *ib.* 3008-3016. 3026, 3027——Large attendance at the Saturday evening meetings of the Temperance Society at Luton, *ib.* 3017-3019——A large number of witness's hands are total abstainers, *ib.* 3023-3025——Early age at which the women indulge in drinking, *ib.* 3028-3030——Application has been made to the magistrates not to licence gin-palaces, *ib.* 3031-3033——General character of the population, *ib.* 3033, 3034——Large amount of profligacy and crime attributable to drinking, particularly on Saturday and Sunday, *ib.* 3035-3039——The rating qualification at Luton is 12*l.*, *ib.* 3069.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

M.

Maber, Timothy. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Publican in the High-street, Islington, for about twenty years, 289–291. 297, 298——It would be to the interest of respectable publicans that their houses should be closed on Sunday, 292–295. 309, 310. 322——Large proportion of publicans in Islington who signed a petition for closing altogether on Sundays, 295. 328. 331, 332——Witness has not opened on Sundays for fourteen years from conscientious feeling, 296. 302, 303. 339, 340——Belief that closing on Sunday would raise the class of publicans, and would not occasion inconvenience to the community, 299–301. 312–316. 359——Witness has not sustained any considerable loss by closing on Sunday, 304–308. 321. 347——General acquiescence by the respectable class of publicans in the propriety of closing on Sunday, 309–311. 328——Houses that depend upon the Sunday trade are not of a very respectable class, 317, 318——Some publicans would prefer their houses being opened at certain times of the day, 324–327. 329, 330.

Difficulty of making an exception to the rule in favour of travellers, 333, 334. 338——Public-houses receive lodgers in some parts of London, 335–337——Slight opposition anticipated on the part of the lower classes to closing on Sunday, 341, 342——Beneficial results from houses being closed on Sunday mornings, 343–345——Excessive drinking on Saturday nights adverted to, 349, 350——It would be injurious to the trade to limit the time for closing on week days, 351–357——General time of closing at Islington during the week, 358——Satisfactory system of licensing at Islington, 360, 361. 367, 368—— Favouritism occasionally in granting licences, 362–365——There is no necessity for any alteration in the law, so as to render licences more easily obtainable, 368–372.

Strong objections to throwing open the trade, 373–377. 396, 397. 409, 410. 416–425——Beneficial effects of publicans being subject to a penalty for misconduct, 376. 398——Requisite capital for opening a public-house, 378–382——Low class of persons opening beershops in consequence of the trifling capital required, 383, 384. 416. 425——Effect of throwing open the spirit trade on beershops, 385–394. 416——Circumstance of publicans being sometimes convicted for occurrences in their house over which they have no control, 399——Discretion of the magistrates with regard to fines for breaches of the law, 400–405——Heavy penalties should be enforced for serving on Sunday mornings, 402——Habitual offenders should forfeit their licences, 406–408——Belief that the present system of licensing does not cause a monopoly, 411–415——Objections to licences being granted to individuals instead of to houses, 427–432——Steps now taken to ascertain the respectability of any party to whom a licence is about to be transferred, 433–436.

M'Callum, The Rev. Archibald, A.M. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Governor of the Boys' House of Refuge at Glasgow, 4165, 4166——Beneficial effect of the change in the law with regard to public-houses which came into operation in Glasgow on the 15th of last May, 4168–4171. 4174–4177. 4203–4208——Statement of the superintendent of police at Glasgow as to the satisfactory working of the Act, 4171–4174——Great vigilance required to prevent the illegal sale of liquors in Scotland, 4174——Return by the superintendent of police at Edinburgh, showing the small amount of drunkenness on Sunday under the new system as compared with the old, 4174——Queries sent by witness to forty of the city missionaries in Glasgow with respect to drunkenness and its effects upon the amount of crime and pauperism, &c., 4178–4180——With one exception, the answers to these queries express a wish that the sale of ardent spirit may be entirely prohibited, 4181——They consider there would be a great danger in throwing open the trade in liquors, 4182.

Evils of the facilities with which licences are obtained in Glasgow, 4182, 4183——Prevalence of excessive drinking in Scotland generally, 4184–4189——Success of the total abstinence societies adverted to, 4189——Belief that a Maine law alone will effectually remove drunkenness, *ib.*——Answers to queries sent to the Glasgow City Mission, City Temperance Mission, and others, as to the evil effects of the large number of public-houses in Glasgow, delivered in, 4190——Favourable feeling of the people in Scotland (including the spirit sellers) with respect to the prohibition of the sale of liquors on Sunday, 4191–4194. 4201, 4202——Slight difficulty anticipated in preventing the illegal sale of spirits, 4195, 4196——Beer is very little drank in Scotland; the common people generally drink spirits, 4197, 4198——Belief that few people in Scotland purchase spirits on Saturday for home consumption on Sunday, 4195. 4199, 4200——General satisfaction given in Glasgow by the Act providing for the closing of public-houses on week days from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., and on Sundays altogether, 4210, 4211——Disapproval of places of recreation being open in Scotland or elsewhere on Sundays, 4212–4219——Increased facilities for rational recreation during the week would be very beneficial, 4212, 4213.

M'Culloch, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been for many years employed by the Government as analytical chemist, 4375–4377——Extensive experience of witness as regards the analysis of beer, 4377–4379——Of 480 samples analysed since Christmas he found only about one in twenty genuine, 4379, 3380——The amount of the duty on malt

M'Culloch, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

malt is greatly decreased by the adulteration practised, 4381-4384——No difficulty is experienced in obtaining samples of beer as sent out by the brewers, 4385, 4386——Slight variation in alcoholic strength in forty samples, some obtained direct from the brewery, and others from publicans, 4387. 4390. 4392. 4400, 4401——Explanation as to the proof strength of excise spirits, 4388——Small number of samples obtained from the publicans approaching within twenty per cent. of the genuine standard, 4390-4392——Comparative specific gravity of the beer supplied by the brewers and of that retailed by the publicans, 4392——Adulteration practised by a publican in the neighbourhood of St. Katharine's Docks adverted to; ingredients used for this purpose, 4393-4397. 4448-4450——A small quantity of sulphate of iron is sometimes used to give a head to the beer, 4398, 4399.

Explanation as to the manner in which amber (an inferior description of beer) is made; it is extensively used by publicans to mix with the beer, 4402-4407——Impossibility of publicans meeting the extortionate demands of the brewers without having recourse to adulteration, 4408, 4409, 4410. 4417. 4492——Case showing the manner in which a publican is dependent on the brewer to whom the house belongs; this is a very general system in the trade, 4409-4416. 4418-4426. 4436-4439——Evils of the system of the publicans being indebted to the brewers, 4429 *et seq.*——The same price per barrel is charged by the brewers as by the publicans, 4447——Amount of profit when excessively adulterated by the publicans, 4448-4450——Witness has never known the brewers interfere on account of adulteration, 4451.

How far the practice of reducing the strength of gin by the addition of sugar and water may be considered a fraud, 4452-4458——The Excise are obliged to grant a licence upon a magistrate's certificate, 4459-4461——Disapproval of the present licensing system, on account of favouritism and the great influence of brewers and distillers, 4462-4464. 4471-4473——Numerous cases of fraud against publicans, as compared with beersellers, 4465-4467. 4478. 4481, 4482——Requisite certificate for a beerhouse licence; no inquiry is made by the Excise as to the character of the applicants, 4468-4470——Circumstance of a licence being guaranteed to a certain house, if a publican will take it, 4473-4477——Offences for which publicans are prosecuted by the Excise, 4478. 4481——Excisemen have power to enter beershops, but not coffee-shops or houses without a licence, except by special warrant, 4479, 4480.

Difficulty of prosecuting publicans for adulterating beer, 4483-4485——Opportunities of the publicans for selling illicitly distilled spirits, 4486-4488——Lucrative character of the business of a brewer, independently of the gains realized through the partial system of the licensing magistrates, 4489——Advantages of the spirit trade being thrown open, 4490, 4491. 4493——Belief that if publicans were compelled to have the porter of a stated strength, it would have the effect of more easily detecting and greatly checking adulteration, 4493-4499——Brewers should be allowed to supply private families with beer of any strength, 4500——Suggested amendments in the law with respect to the granting of licences, 4501.

Magistrates. See *Licences.*

Maine Liquor Law:

1. *Its operation in America.*
2. *Its Introduction into this Country recommended.*
3. *Its Effect on the Public Revenue.*

1. *Its Operation in America:*

Result of Dr. Lee's inquiry as to the operation of the Maine law in the United States, *Card* 1816-1820——Circumstance of the governor of New York, having voted the bill for prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, after it had passed through the legislature, *ib.* 1831, 1832——Number of American states that have adopted the liquor law, *ib.* 1833-1836——Slight facilities in the state of Maine for private distillation, *ib.* 1928——Manner of supplying liquors for medicinal purposes in the states of America, under the prohibition law, *ib.* 1929——Beneficial effects of the adoption of the law, *ib.* 1931-1936——The Maine law does not at all interfere with individuals in their private houses, but merely prohibits the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks, *Haughton* 2681-2684.

Operation of the law in several states in America, *Lees* 4244——Slight extent to which it is evaded, *ib.* 4245-4248——Class of persons who are dissatisfied with it, *ib.* 4249-4253——It is the result of municipal legislation; possibility of passing such a law in a similar manner in England, *ib.* 4254-4258——Importance attached to total abstinence by the majority of Americans; large proportion of the higher classes who are total abstainers, *ib.* 4259-4264——The Sabbath is more strictly observed in those states in which the Maine law is in operation, *ib.* 4291, 4292.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

MAINE LIQUOR LAW—continued.

2. *Its Introduction into this Country recommended:*

The majority of habitual drunkards wish the temptation to drink removed, *Card* 1825–1829. 1954——Possibility of enforcing (with the consent of the people) a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in great Britain, *ib.* 1904–1910. 1977——Expediency of removing the temptations to drunkenness, *Cunliffe* 2436–2438——Belief that a Maine law alone will effectually remove drunkenness, *Card* 1954–1957; *Cunliffe* 2487–2489; *M'Callum* 4189——Suggestions with regard to carrying out this object, *Cunliffe* 2408–2413. 2457–2461.

Opinion that with universal suffrage the Maine law would be carried in Ireland in twelve months, *Haughton* 2652–2657. 2668, 2669——Witness would recommend the entire prohibition of the manufacture of intoxicating drinks (except for medicinal and artistic purposes), and the importation of all foreign liquors, *ib.* 2675–2679. 2685——Unadvisableness of carrying any measure in opposition to popular opinion, *ib.* 2680——Support given to an alliance established for the purpose of creating and organizing public opinion on the subject of the entire prohibition of the sale of liquors in England, *Lees* 4265, 4266——Belief that a law entirely prohibiting the sale of liquors would be well received by the working classes, *ib.* 4239–4241.

Reference to the suggested introduction of the Maine Liquor Law into this country, *Rep. p.* xv.

3. *Its Effect on the Public Revenue:*

Evidence in support of witness's opinion that the revenue would not suffer by the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, *Card* 1837–1845; *Haughton* 2640–2646——Tables delivered in extracted from the "Scottish Temperance Review," showing the quantity of coffee, tea, cocoa, rum, &c. retained for consumption in the United Kingdom in each of the years 1821 to 1850, from which witness concludes that no diminution of revenue need be apprehended from the people abstaining from spirituous liquors, *Haughton* 2613–2615——Reference to a pamphlet attributed to Mr. Napier, as demonstrating the fact that less expenditure in intoxicating liquors would improve the public revenue, *ib.* 2615–2617——Calculated annual saving to the people from the disuse of intoxicating drinks in the United Kingdom, *ib.* 2659–2663.

See also *Bolton*, 1. *Glasgow. Public Meetings. Revenue. United Kingdom Alliance.*

Malt Tax. The amount of the duty on malt is greatly decreased by the adulteration of beer, &c., *M'Culloch* 4381–4384.——*See* also *Revenue.*

MANCHESTER:

1. *Number and Character of the Public-houses and Beershops.*
2. *Expediency of Sunday Closing considered.*
3. *Extent of Drunkenness.*
4. *Particulars as to the Parks.*
5. *Other Means of Recreation provided.*

1. *Number and Character of the Public-houses and Beershops:*

Frequency of complaints against landlords for offences committed on Sunday, *Baylee* 228–230——Number of public-houses and beerhouses, and number of complaints against them respectively, *Card* 1869, 1870——General nature of the complaints, *ib.* 1872–1874——Number and class of persons frequenting a singing saloon at a beershop; attractions of this place, *Howarth* 2005–2010——The public-houses and beershops are very numerous in low neighbourhoods, such as Dean's Gate, *ib.* 2027——Large number of the lowest class of persons in Manchester, *Wright* 2121——The music rooms have public-house licences; character of these places, *ib.* 2230–2235.

2. *Expediency of Sunday Closing considered:*

Means by which the number of visits to public-houses in Manchester on Sundays, during the lawful hours for the sale of liquors, has been ascertained, *Card* 1875–1883——The public-houses are much frequented on Sunday mornings, *ib.* 1884, 1885——Manner in which particulars as to the visitors to public-houses on Sunday have been compiled, *Howarth* 1987–1991——Number of spirit vaults, public-houses, and beershops that are open on Sunday, and number of visits (distinguishing men, women, and children) made to them in the course of the day, *ib.* 1992–2000——Amount of drinking on Sunday in proportion to the population, *ib.* 2001–2003——The population is about 330,000, *Card* 1871.

The majority of children attending public-houses on Sunday go for the purpose of fetching liquors, *Howarth* 2011, 2012——Hours at which the public-houses are open on Sunday, *ib.* 2013–2015——Large number of persons frequenting them between half-past four and ten o'clock, *ib.* 2016——Reference to the beerhouses and spirit vaults; low class of persons resorting thereto on Sunday, *ib.* 2017——Conduct of persons generally attending the public-houses, *ib.* 2024, 2025——Small proportion of the number of cases

of

MANCHESTER—continued.

2. *Expediency of Sunday Closing Considered*—continued.

of drunkenness on Sunday which are brought before the magistrates; cause to which this is attributable, *Howarth* 2045-2055——The number of police is about 320, *ib.* 2060, 2061——Belief that the town council have the power of allowing public-houses to open at half-past twelve, for the convenience of the public, *ib.* 2096-2102.

Reference to calculations as to the number of persons visiting public-houses on Sunday at certain periods, *Richardson* 3567-3570——The general feeling is, that the public-houses should be closed till after Divine service in the afternoon, *ib.* 3575-3583. 3596——The majority of the people are in favour of keeping the houses open, *ib.* 3586-3593——Sunday evening drinking is not carried to excess, *ib.* 3602, 3603——Reference to the numbers visiting the public-houses on Sunday, *Rep. p.* xvi.

3. *Extent of Drunkenness:*

Extract from tables showing the decrease of drunkenness since the operation of the Act of 1847; observations thereon, *Baylee* 227, 228——Small proportion of the total cases of drunkeness which are brought before the magistrates, *Card* 1858-1869——Grounds for the opinion that drunkenness and crime are on the increase, *Howarth* 2065-2067——Increased number of public-houses and beershops in Manchester of late years, *Howarth* 2068-2070; *Wright* 2220-2223; *Richardson* 3534, 3535.

Rapid increase of drunkenness, calculated from the greater number of prisoners of late years; examination as to such number, *Wright* 2189-2227——Reason assigned for the increased drunkenness, *ib.* 2213-2216. 2225-2227——Laxity of the police with regard to cases of drunkenness, *ib.* 2228, 2229——Belief that drunkenness has increased of late, owing to the increased means of the working classes, *Cunliffe* 2323——If the police were to take cognizance of all cases of drunkenness, the apprehensions for that offence would greatly increase, *ib.* 2339-2345.

4. *Particulars as to the Parks:*

Objections to the parks being open for recreation on Sundays while public-houses also remain open, *Wright* 2250, 2251. 2256-2264. 2275. 2276. 2280-2285——Large number of the lower classes frequenting the parks on Sunday; belief that they are in the habit of frequenting public-houses afterwards, *ib.* 2280-2285. 2296, 2297——Improved character of the people since the parks have been established, *Richardson* 3511, 3512. 3524-3532——Manner in which the funds were obtained for the purchase of the land, *ib.* 3512. 3516——Particulars as to the situation of the three parks, *ib.* 3512-3515——Extensive character of the parks, *ib.* 3519-3523.

The sale of intoxicating liquors is prohibited, *Richardson* 3525, 3526——The trade of the public-houses has decreased since the parks have been opened, *ib.* 3528-3531——Belief that few persons resort to public-houses after walking in the parks, *ib.* 3532, 3533——The parks are open from sunrise to sunset, *ib.* 3533. 3543——The complaints are not well founded that the parks have had the effect of decreasing the number of persons attending Divine worship, *ib.* 3546-3548——Large number of persons resorting to the parks and public gardens on Sundays, *ib.* 3555-3557.

5. *Other means of Recreation provided:*

A public museum and library have been established in Peel Park, which are much used by the people, *Richardson* 3517——General means of recreation resorted to on Sundays, *ib.* 3544. 3557. 3584, 3585——The general body of the working class do not attend places of Divine worship on Sunday, *ib.* 3549——Extensive character of the Bellevue and Pomona Gardens; amusements provided for visitors, *ib.* 3550, 3551——The gardens are open on Sundays at a charge of 6 *d.*, which is returned in refreshments; every description of liquor is sold, *ib.* 3550-3552. 3594——Orderly character of the persons attending, *ib.* 3553, 3554.

General character of the music-rooms which are open on Sundays, *Richardson* 3559-3561——The practice of singing psalms at the public-houses was very properly put down by the police, *ib.* 3562-3565——Class of persons attending the Free Trade Hall concerts, *ib.* 3604, 3605——There are no concerts unconnected with the sale of liquors, *ib.* 3606-3608——Character of the music-rooms and terms of admission, *ib.* 3606-3609——Belief that they would be well attended if no liquors were sold, *ib.* 3610, 3611——There are two theatres much frequented by the common people, *ib.* 3615——Class of performance most extensively patronised by the people, *ib.* 3621-3623.

See also *Excursionists. Licences*, 1. *Liverpool. Museums. Police. Public Meetings. United Kingdom Alliance.*

Maraschino Act. Objection to the Maraschino Bill relative to the sale of less than two gallons; grounds upon which the Bill was supported by Mr. Wood, the chairman of the Excise, *Horner* 3916, 3917. 3920——Operation of the Act adverted to, *Rep. p.* vi.

See also *Wholesale Dealers.*

Marylebone. Crowded state of the public-houses and beershops from seven to twelve o'clock on Sunday evenings, *Weylland* 8–19——Class of persons attending the public-houses on Sundays, *ib.* 22–26. 35——Result of canvassing for signatures of 125 publicans to a petition for closing public-houses and beershops on Sundays, *ib.* 36–45——Forty signed the petition; thirty-six expressed their willingness to sign if permitted to open for two hours in the middle of the day; fourteen would give no opinion; thirty-four were opposed to it on public and private grounds, *ib.* 38——One licensed victualler was opposed to the sale of beer or spirits in any shape on Sunday, *ib.* 38. 43–45——Reference to a nightly refuge for destitute persons in Marylebone, *ib.* 130–132.

Greater number of persons in drinking houses than in the churches, *Rep. p.* xvi——Reference to the signatures of publicans to the petition for Sunday closing, *ib.* xix.

Medical Purposes. Power of the police at all times to demand admission into public-houses with a customer in cases of necessity, *Glass* 531–534——Rarity of spirits being sold on Sunday for medical purposes, *Chamen* 676–678——Houses should be entirely closed after three o'clock, except for the sale of spirits for medical purposes, *Haddock* 718, 719. 749.

Merthyr Tydvil:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Sunday Closing.*

1. *Generally:*

Large amount of drinking on Saturday nights and Sunday, *Wren* 2864–2867. 2884. 2981——Great number of public-houses and beershops in proportion to the population, (100,000), *ib.* 2873. 2978–2984——Effect of a suspension of a licence, *ib.* 2895, 2896——Penalties imposed for breaches of the law, *ib.* 2897–2899——High rate of wages, *ib.* 2908——Evil effects of the low class of beerhouses, *ib.* 2909–2915——A large proportion of the beerhouses are not of the value required by law; belief that this is more the result of carelessness than collusion, *ib.* 2916–2924——Evils of the agents at Merthyr Tydvil keeping beershops, *ib.* 2926, 2927.

The check upon the publicans and beersellers is the fear of being informed against by the police; inducements held out to the latter to forego informations, *Wren* 2931. 2952–2954——Practice with regard to laying informations, *ib.* 2938, 2939——Beerhouse keepers are required to have two sureties, *ib.* 2950, 2951——General character of offences charged against the beerhouses, *ib.* 2961–2963——Attractions of the beerhouses; slight extent to which they are used for immoral purposes, *ib.* 2964, 2965——The police are frequently called in to clear the houses, *ib.* 2966. 2967——Many of the public-houses belong to brewers; interference by them to prevent houses losing their licence, *ib.* 2968–2971——General character of the working men, *ib.* 2982——Great want of rational amusements, *ib.* 2985–2990——Large number of persons attending the playground and reading rooms established by Lady Guest; beneficial effects thereof, *ib.* 2988, 2989.

2. *Sunday Closing:*

Favourable feeling of the people at Merthyr Tydvil with regard to closing public-houses on Sunday, *Wren* 2861–2863. 2883——Average number of persons in each beerhouse and public-house from eight to eleven o'clock on Sunday evening; total number, *ib.* 2868–2872. 2900——All the publicans and beershop keepers (with one exception) signed a petition for closing the houses on Sundays, *ib.* 2874–2881——Rioting has much decreased on Sundays of late years, *ib.* 2885.

Number of licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers convicted last year, chiefly for selling on Sunday morning, *Wren* 2887–2889. 2909–2911——The convictions are reported on licensing day by witness; the licences are taken away after several convictions, *ib.* 2890–2894. 2954–2957——Hours of closing public-houses and beershops on Sundays, *ib.* 2901, 2902——The working men seldom have beer in their own homes, *ib.* 2906, 2907. 2925.

Meux, Messrs. The houses in the neighbourhood of Dean-street chiefly belong to Messrs. Meux & Co, *Caldwell* 1692——Particulars relative to the house kept by witness's sister, and owned by Messrs. Meux & Co.; agreement with the latter to sell their beer only, *ib.* 1693–1710.

Monopoly. Belief that the present system of licensing does not cause a monopoly, *Maber* 411–415——The monopoly of the brewers is the evil of the present system of licensing, *M'Culloch* 4433–4435——Great extent to which the trade of a licensed victualler may be considered a monopoly, *Hawes* 4545–4547.

Museums. It is the general desire in Manchester that the museum and libraries should be opened on Sundays; it would have a good effect on the working classes, *ib.* 3536–3542.

See also *Recreation.*

Music and Dancing. See *Concerts.* *Dancing Rooms.* *Eagle Tavern, City-road.* *Recreation.* *Theatres, &c.*

N.

National Institutions. Opinion of the committee that the national institutions, &c., should be open on Sunday, *Rep. p.* xxiii——The ordinary servants of such places need not attend on Sunday, *ib.*

Neilson, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Is a magistrate for the county of Lancaster, 3166——Decreased amount of drunkenness among the lower classes in the district midway between Woolton and Prescot during the last twelve years; causes to which attributable, 3167-3173——Slight opportunities for amusement in this district, 3174——Beneficial effects of providing rational amusements for the people, particularly on Sundays, as tending greatly to decrease drunkenness, 3174-3178. 3193. 3214——Large number of public-houses at St. Helen's, a town twelve miles from Liverpool; measures taken by the magistrates to check their increase, 3187, 3188——Disapproval of the manner in which beerhouse licences are granted; suggestions on this point, with a view to reduce the number of low beerhouses, 3188-3191. 3208-3236——Advantage of increasing the amount of the licence, as supplying a fund applicable to the independent inspection of public-houses, 3192. 3208——Temptations to which the police are subjected in order to forego informations, 3192.

Suggestion that public-house licences should be granted by the magistrates at quarter sessions instead of at the petty sessions, as at present, 3194-3200. 3236——Plan adopted in witness's district for ascertaining the requirement of the neighbourhood when applications are made for new licences, 3201——Belief that frequent evasion of the required rating of beerhouses takes place in the outlying districts of Lancashire, 3202-3206——Frequent complaints made of the beerhouses in Lancashire under the existing system, 3207-3209. 3220. 3222——Evil effects of the lower class of beerhouses, 3210, 3211. 3221——Sufficiency of the number of public-houses in Lancashire, if beerhouses were prohibited, 3215——The inhabitants of witness's district are generally favourable to closing public-houses on Sunday, 3216-3218——The publicans are unfavourable to the proposed measure, 3219.

Suggested plan for the inspection of public-houses, 3223-3225——Evidence is furnished on licensing day of the previous convictions against public-houses and beerhouses, 3226——Manner in which the forfeiture of beersbop licences is evaded, 3227-3229——General character of publicans; suggested mode of increasing their respectability, 3230-3232——It would be advisable that houses should be utterly disqualified on the licence being forfeited, 3233, 3234——Advantage of greater facilities being afforded for the recovery of the bond put in suit by the Excise, 3235——Difficulty of adopting an efficient system of inspection in the rural districts, 3237, 3238.

New Cut (*Lambeth*). Disorderly and drunken habits of the crowds who frequent this locality on Saturday night and Sunday, *Balfour* 4737-4746. 4752-4756.

Night Houses. Particulars as to the class of people who support those coffee-shops which are open all night, *Weylland* 120-122. 124-126. 136. 209——Necessity of some houses of refreshment being open all night, *ib.* 124-129. 136-140. 175. 209.

Night. Improper manner in which many of the night coffee-houses are conducted, *Weylland* 133-135; *Balfour* 1333-1335. 1351——Suggested superintendence of the night coffee-houses, *Weylland* 137-139——No licensed house should be open all night, *ib.* 174——Class of public-houses which are open till three or four o'clock in the morning; neighbourhoods in which they are situated, *Powell* 981-984.

Norwood. Increased population of Norwood since the Crystal Palace has been in progress, *Haddock* 723. 741——Number of beer and spirit houses in the neighbourhood licensed within the last two years, *ib.* 724. 782-789——The men who are in the habit of resorting to public-houses at Norwood till a late hour on Sunday night are chiefly of the working class in the vicinity of the palace, *ib.* 727-730. 760-764. 775——Great drunkenness in Norwood on Saturday and Sunday nights, *ib.* 808-811.

Number of Public-houses, &c. Recommended reduction in the number of public-houses and beershops, *Stinton* 3770-3772. 3791-3793. 3806-3808.

O.

Odd Fellows Lodges. Regulations for the prevention of disorderly conduct at Odd Fellows Lodges, *Balfour* 1154-1156.

Offences. See *Convictions. Evasions of the Law.*

Old Warden, Bedfordshire. High moral character of the inhabitants of this village, the property of Lord Ongley, *Balfour* 1366-1373——There is but one public-house in the village, which is kept by the steward of Lord Ongley, and subject to his lordship's supervision; amusements provided for the people, *ib.* 1366-1372——The employment of the people is purely agricultural, *ib.* 1379.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Oldham. Particulars as to the hush-shops or unlicensed beerhouses at Oldham; difficulty of obtaining convictions against them for want of evidence, *Clegg* 3664–3694——The inhabitants are averse to public-houses being closed on Sunday on account of an anticipated increase in the hush-shops, *ib.* 3686, 3687——Bad character of persons frequenting hush-shops, *ib.* 3689——Steps taken by the Inland Revenue Office for their suppression, *ib.* 3690——Extract from a report of the superintendent of police for the year 1851, showing the number of hush-sellers in Oldham and length of time they have carried on the practice; distinguishing those kept by parties who follow any trade or calling; difficulty of obtaining a conviction explained, and suggestion with a view to their suppression, *ib.* 3693, 3694.

Opening the Trade. See *Trade, The.*

P.

Pamphilon's Coffee-house. Admirable manner in which Mr. Pamphilon conducted a coffee-house in Sherrard-street, Soho; he has now retired, having made a fortune, *Balfour* 1323–1325——This coffee-house was used by all classes, *ib.* 1326–1329.

Parks. See *Manchester*, 4. *Recreation. Victoria Park.*

Pavenham, Bedfordshire. Particulars as to the population, pursuits, &c. of the inhabitants, *Balfour* 1352, 1353——Extreme ignorance of the people. *ib.* 1353, 1354——Excessive drinking, particularly on Sunday evening, *ib.* 1356, 1357. 1361–1365——Demoralizing influence of the large number of licensed houses and beerhouses in proportion to the population, *ib.* 1355–1360. 1429, 1430——Great extent to which opium eating is indulged in by the women, *ib.* 1357. 1417–1421.

Paxton, Sir Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Circumstances attending the closing and re-opening of Chatsworth on Sunday adverted to, as showing the beneficial effects of opening public places of rational amusement on Sunday, 3095–3097. 3110, 3111——Orderly character of the visitors, 3098, 3099. 3110, 3111——Only two men are employed in looking after that portion of the grounds open on Sundays, 3102, 3103——Tendency of the opening of the Crystal Palace on Sunday to improve the habits and condition of the working classes; slight amount of labour which it would entail, 3104–3106. 3110. 3117. 3121. 3126. 3139, 3140. 3164——Improvement generally in the condition of the working people on Sunday since facilities have been afforded for rational recreation, 3017–3019. 3152–3159——Large number of persons visiting Chatsworth on Mondays, 3112–3114——Extent of the grounds at Chatsworth open on Sunday; number of visitors, 3115, 3116.

Witness proposes that the Crystal Palace and grounds be opened at one or two o'clock on Sundays, and that no intoxicating liquors be sold, 3118–3120. 3130–3138——The price of admission would be very low on Sundays, 3122——The number of visitors would greatly depend on the facilities for transit, 3123——General orderly conduct of persons going to Hampton Court, Richmond, &c. on Sundays, 3123, 3124——Slight grounds for apprehension as to the conduct of the people visiting the Crystal Palace on Sundays, 3125, 3126——Objectionable character of the low tea-gardens, &c. at present resorted to, 3127–3129——Certain portions of the palace would be closed, 3130–3132. 3136——The taking money at the doors is the reason why the palace cannot now be opened, 3133, 3134——Circumstance of Government taking money on Sundays for admission into the chapel at Greenwich, &c., 3134, 3135.

Power of the shareholders to visit the palace on Sunday, and give gratuitous admission, but that they consider themselves bound by the clause in the Charter prohibiting money being taken, 3141–3152——Large number of persons who visited Kew Gardens on Sunday last year, 3153, 3154——Disapproval of entirely closing public-houses on Sunday as causing great inconvenience to travellers; difficulty of making a distinction in their favour, 3160 3162——Inducements to visit the Crystal Palace and other places on Sundays would be much better than legislation about the public-houses, 3162–3264.

Payment of Wages. Importance of the pay-tables of manufacturers being removed from public-houses, *Weylland* 186–189; *Balfour* 1150–1152——Advantages to working men if paid on Friday, *Weylland* 203–206; *Haddock* 744, 745; *Bryan* 1037–1041. 1081, 1082; *Wood* 1098–1101; *Hawes* 4273, 4724——Few masters pay their men at public-houses now, *Haddock* 746–748——Wages at Birmingham are generally paid on the premises of the employer on Friday afternoon, *Jackson* 2731, 2752

Penalties. Persons found in a public-house on Sunday morning should be subject to penalty as well as the landlord, *Weylland* 169–173; *Hutton* 1563–1566; *Cunliffe* 2505; *Stinton* 3725–3727; *Homer* 4059, 4060——Beneficial effects of publicans being subject to a penalty for misconduct, *Maber* 376. 398——Discretion of the magistrates with regard to fines for breaches of the law, *ib.* 400–405——Heavy penalties should be enforced for serving on Sunday mornings, *ib.* 402.

Insufficiency of the present penalties as a check upon the violation of the law on Sundays; return in illustration, *Cunliffe* 2501–2505; *and App. p.* 286, 287——Belief that

Penalties—continued.

that the law making the customers in Ireland equally liable with the publican for selling spirits during prohibited hours is not carried out, *Haughton* 2601, 2602——Beneficial effect of a fine and reprimand in some cases, *Stinton* 3823, 3824.

Resolution, that in all cases of trading during the hours prohibited by law, or selling liquors without licence, the persons found actually present should be deemed guilty of the same offence, and should be liable to a penalty not exceeding half of the penalty which may be imposed upon the proprietor, *Rep. p.* xxvi.

See also *Bond. Sureties.*

Petitions. Two hundred and ninety thousand signatures altogether have hitherto been obtained in favour of Sunday closing, *Baylee* 252——Belief that 2,000,000 signatures could be fairly obtained from the working classes in favour of closing on Sundays, *ib.* ——Several petitions have been presented for the gradual repeal of the Beer Act; copy of one delivered in, *Cunliffe* 2507, 2508; *and App. p.* 287——From the manner in which signatures were obtained to the petition from Leeds for closing on Sunday, it does not express the popular feeling on the subject, *Spirett* 3482-3489——Great opposition would be made by means of petitions, &c. to the passing of a Bill prohibiting the sale of liquors on Sundays, *ib.* 3490-3492——Facility of obtaining signatures to petitions for closing on Sundays, *Homer* 3934, 3935. 3954-3956——Reasons for no petitions being got up against Sunday closing, which would, however, be strongly opposed, *ib.* 3954-3956. 3962-3964.——*See* also *Marylebone.*

Phillips, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Wine and spirit merchant at Birmingham, is also magistrate for the borough and alderman, was mayor in 1844 and 1845, 3070-3073 ——Evidence in refutation of a statement made by Mr. Beggs, before the Committee of last Session, as to the disorderly character of witness's house, letter from the superintendent of police in support thereof, 3074-3094.

Places of Amusement. Places of public amusement should be closed earlier, *Weylland* 174 ——Recommendations that the sale of intoxicating drinks should not be connected with places of public amusement, *Balfour* 1166-1172. 1279-1282. 1415, 1416; *Lees* 4293-4297. 4300, 4301; *Balfour* 4812, 4813; *Rep. p.* xxvi.——Evasion of the law as to places of recreation on Sunday, *Rep. p.* xxiii.

See also *Dancing Rooms. Recreation. Theatres, &c.*

Pleasure Gardens. No apprehension need be felt, that gardens would sustain any damage by the admission of the working classes on Sunday, *Haughton* 2540——Ruinous effect on some proprietors of pleasure gardens, if public-houses be entirely closed on Sundays, *Stinton* 3737-3739. 3796.

See also *Botanical Gardens, Dublin. Chatsworth. Crystal Palace. Eagle Tavern, City-road. Kew Gardens. Leeds*, 3. *Manchester*, 5. *Recreation. Tea Gardens. Zoological Gardens, Dublin.*

Police. Power of the police to enter public-houses and beershops, *Weylland* 150-152; *Card* 1966; *Haughton* 2557; *Wren* 2932-2937——The police have no authority to enter a public-house, unless there is a disturbance, *Balfour* 1207-1210——Apprehension felt by publicans of informations being laid by the police for disorderly conduct in their houses, *ib.* 1214-1216——The police have no power to inquire into the character of the publican, or the mode in which public-houses are conducted, *Hutton* 1477-1479——Suggested power of the police to enter licensed houses at all times, and report regularly as to the manner in which they are conducted, *ib.* 1507-1509. 1515, 1516. 1554, 1555. 1557-1559. 1561, 1562——Quotation from the Act of 4 & 5 Will. 4th, c. 85, s. 7, relative to the power of entry by the police, into public-houses and beershops, *ib.* 1514.

Number of policemen entering public-houses in Manchester, while on duty, *Howarth* 2004. 2026——Belief that the police seen to enter public-houses, went for the purpose of drinking, *ib.* 2018-2023——Temptations to which the police are subjected in order to forego informations, *Neilson* 3192——A trifling extra remuneration to the police in cases of conviction, would have the effect of checking the sale of liquors at illegal hours, *Stinton* 3731-3736——The police should be empowered to inspect public-houses, and to enter a house when requested by the landlord, *Homer* 4067-4074.

See also *Inspection.*

Population. Difficulty of adopting a fixed rule as to granting licences in proportion to the population, *Hutton* 1569, 1570——Population, not rating, should regulate payment for licence, *Rep. p.* xii.

Powell, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Cab driver and proprietor, 913-915—— Witness has been a teetotaller for five years, number of cab drivers who are total abstainers, 917-921——Great extent to which dram-drinking is practised among cabmen, 922—— Public-houses ought to be closed altogether on Sunday, 923——Total number of cabs, proportion taking out a licence for six days, 924-928——Mode in which the inconvenience arising from the closing of public-houses on Sunday, would be met by cabmen, 929, 930.

Powell, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

947——It is the wish of many cab drivers, that public-houses should be closed altogether on Sunday, and earlier on week days, 931-933. 946-989, 990——The six-day cabs have been the means of greatly improving the drivers, without detriment to the proprietors, 934-941. 948-953. 970-974——Experience of witness as a cabman, &c., 938-948——Public-houses being open on Sunday, is a great temptation to cab drivers, 942-945. 965, 966.

Rate of duty paid for cab licences, 954, 955. 1000, 1001——The number of cabs have diminished since the last Act; number plying on Sunday, 956-958——Six-day cab masters and their men generally make Sunday a day of rest, 959. 969——There is no actual necessity for cabmen taking spirits in inclement weather, 960-964——Public convenience does not require that public-houses should be open all night, 968. 975-976——Low and disorderly class of persons frequenting public-houses after twelve o'clock at night on week days, 976-980——Class of houses which are open till three or four o'clock in the morning, neighbourhoods in which they are situated, 981-984——Large number of persons frequenting public-houses on Sunday evenings, 985, 986——Suggested time for closing public-houses, 987-990——Manner in which cabmen are paid, 991, 992——Further particulars relative to the six-day and the seven-day cabs, 993-1007.

Premises. See *Drinking on Premises.*

Price of Beer. Late rise in the price of beer adverted to, as putting it in the publican's power to supply a better article; impossibility of supplying unadultered beer at 3*d.* a pot, *Caldwell* 1710-1722. 1739. 1745-1751; *Homer* 4014-4023. 4037, 4038. 4053, 4054——The same price per barrel is charged by the brewers as by the publicans, *M'Culloch* 4447.——*See* also *Adulteration.* *Hanbury, Messrs.*

Proceedings of the Committee. *Rep. p.* xxviii-xxxii.

Profits. Amount of profit when the beer is excessively adulterated by the publicans, *M'Culloch* 4448-4450——Lucrative character of a well-conducted public-house, *Hawes* 4612-4614——The profits on wines and spirits are much more considerable than on beer, *ib.* 4615-4620——The profits are frequently overrated, *ib.* 4640——The necessity of making a profit on beer alone gives rise to adulteration, *Rep. p.* vii——Beerhouses and public-houses have not the same opportunities of success, *ib.*

Prohibition. See *Maine Liquor Law.*

Public-houses. See *Adulteration.* *Amber.* *Beer Act.* *Beershops.* *Birmingham.* *Capital.* *Character of Publicans.* *Control.* *Early Closing.* *Evasions of the Law.* *Inspection.* *Lancashire.* *Leeds.* *Licensed Victuallers, London.* *Licences.* *Manchester.* *Merthyr Tydvil,* 1. *Number of Public-houses and Beershops.* *Police.* *Price of Beer.* *Profits.* *Rural Districts.* *Sunday Closing.* *Sundays.* *Trade, The.* *Wandsworth.* *Wire, Mr. Alderman.* *Withdrawal of Licence.*

Public Meetings. Circumstance of a resolution having been passed at a public meeting in Manchester for the closing of public-houses on Sunday; class of persons at this meeting, which was numerously attended, *Howarth* 2079-2086——Reference to numerously attended public meetings at Bolton, as favourable to closing on Sunday, *Cunliffe* 2350-2359. 2469-2474——Large attendance at a public meeting held in Cloth Hall-yard, Leeds, on the subject of Sunday closing; the mayor presided, *Spirett* 3428-3433. 3458-3460——After due discussion a resolution was declared in favour of closing on Sunday; how far this resolution can be taken as the expression of public opinion on the subject, *ib.* 3434-3457——Class of men who attended and addressed the meeting, *ib.* 3453-3455. 3461-3463. 3472-3474——Great confusion occurred in taking the votes in consequence of the vast attendance, *ib.* 3464-3471.

Objection to the public meeting in Manchester on the subject of Sunday closing as having been got up by the religious classes, *Richardson* 3589——Impossibility of correctly judging of the popular opinion by the attendance at public meetings, *Homer* 3957, 3858. 3961.

Reference to a public meeting held at Leeds as showing the favourable feeling of the people in that town with regard to closing public-houses on Sundays, *Lees* 4221-4223. 4235——Result of a public meeting held at the Music Hall, Leeds, for the purpose of discussing the Maine Law, *ib.* 4223. 4225-4234——Number and class of persons attending this meeting, *ib.* 4231-4234——Large number of public meetings attended by witness during the last six months in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday, *ib.* 4235, 4236——Favourable feeling of the public in general evidenced by no opposition being offered by the large number of persons attending these meetings, *ib.* 4235-4238.

Reference to sundry public meetings in favour of closing on Sunday, *Rep. p.* xviii——Number and importance of such meetings, *ib.* xviii.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Q.

Quarter Sessions. Suggestion that public-house licences should be granted by the magistrates at quarter sessions instead of at petty sessions, as at present, *Neilson*, 3194–3200. 3239——Witness is not aware of any appeal having ever been made to the quarter sessions on the refusal of a licence in Birmingham, *Stinton* 3817–3819.

R.

Railway Labourers. Drunkenness of the English labourers employed in the construction of the railway from Havre to Rouen, adverted to, *Balfour* 1282. 1289–1294——Partial success of witness in inducing these labourers to join temperance societies, *ib.* 1298–1300.

Rating. Licences generally should only vary in accordance with the rating, *M'Culloch* 4501——Expediency of the rating being considered a qualification in regard to licences, *Hawes* 4626–4629——The interest of the publican would induce him to provide proper accommodation for his customers without any provision on the subject, *ib.* 4626–4629.

Different rates of duty, as determined according to the rating, *Rep. p.* iv——Qualifications as to rating, *ib.* v.

Rational Amusements. See *Recreation.*

Recreation:

1. *Expediency of opening Places of Rational Recreation on Sunday.*
2. *Objections thereto.*

1. *Expediency of opening Places of Rational Recreation on Sunday:*

Advisableness of places for rational recreation being opened to the public on Sunday, *Balfour* 1301–1303. 1308, 1309; *Cunliffe* 2385–2387, 2397–2399; *Houghton* 2534–2539. 2586; *Spirett* 3498–3500; *Rep. p.* xxi——Advantage of closing public-houses on Sunday, and extending and encouraging rational amusements for the people, *Hutton* 1510–1513; *Balfour* 4775, 4776. 4816–4819——Great extent to which the opening of places for rational amusement would diminish the frequenters of public-houses, *Houghton* 2542, 2543; *Neilson* 3174–3178. 3193. 3214; *Rep. p.* xxi–xxiii——Improvements generally in the condition of the working people on Sunday since facilities have been afforded for rational recreation, *Sir J. Paxton* 3017–3019. 3152–3159——General orderly conduct of persons going to Hampton Court, Richmond, &c., on Sundays, *ib.* 3123, 3124——Inducements to visit the Crystal Palace, and other places on Sundays, would be much better than legislation about public-houses, *ib.* 3162–3164.

Growing inclination of the working classes to avail themselves of opportunities for rational recreation, *Stinton* 3740–3742——A greater amount of labour is necessary in keeping open the public-houses than would be required in gardens, &c. for recreation, *Lees* 4302——Necessity of recreation being provided for the working classes if public-houses are closed on Sundays; suggestions on this point, *Hawes* 4681–4699. 4730——Mixed feeling of the middle classes with regard to the propriety of opening places of recreation on Sundays, *ib.* 4693, 4694.

Resolution, that it is expedient that places of rational recreation and instruction now closed should be open to the public on Sunday after the hour of two o'clock, p. m.; and that so far as any such places are now closed by operation of law, such law should be so far amended as to enable the Lord Chamberlain, or other competent authority, to determine what places shall be permitted to be so opened, and for what length of time, *Rep. p.* xxvii.

2. *Objections thereto:*

Opinion that opening places for rational recreation would have but a slight effect on the numbers attending public-houses on Sundays, *Weylland* 50–52. 58, 59. 63–65——Objections to the recreations of the working classes on Sunday, as involving labour on the part of others, *Weylland* 52–55. 59, 60; *Baylee* 259–261; *Bryon* 1070–1077. 1083——Sufficiency of the present facilities for rational recreation of the people on Sundays, *Card* 1918, 1919. 1971–1973——The working classes in Manchester have sufficient time for recreation without encroaching on the Sabbath, *Wright* 2267——Disapproval of places of recreation being open in Scotland or elsewhere on Sundays, *M'Callan* 4212. 4219——Increased facilities for rational recreation during the week would be very beneficial, *ib.* 4212, 4213.

See also *Botanical Gardens, Dublin. Chatsworth. Crystal Palace. Dancing Rooms. Eagle Tavern, City-road. Hampton Court. Kew Gardens. Leeds, 3. Leeds Rational Recreation Society. Manchester, 4, 5. Museums. National Institutions. Places of Amusement. Pleasure Gardens. Tea Gardens. Zoological Gardens, Dublin.*

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Reformed Criminals. Large proportion of reformed criminals who have given up intoxicating liquors, *Wright* 2155-2160. 2167-2169——Obstacles to reformed convicts obtaining employment, *ib.* 2161-2163. 2165——Reformed character of six persons (who had been in prison) sent by witness to the institution in South-street, Westminster, *ib.* 2163, 2164.

Revenue. See *Ireland.* *Maine Liquor Law*, 3.

Richardson, Reginald John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Land and building surveyor at Manchester, 3505——Is well acquainted with the working classes and their amusements, 3507-3510——Improved character of the people of Manchester since the parks have been established, 3511, 3512. 3524-3532——Manner in which the funds were obtained for the purchase of the land for the parks, 3512-3516——Particulars as to the situation of the three parks, 3512-3515——A public museum and library have since been established in Peel Park, which are much used by the people, 3517——Extensive character of the parks, 3519-3523——The sale of intoxicating liquors is prohibited, 3525-3526.

The trade of the public-houses has decreased since the parks have been opened, 3528-3531——Belief that few persons resort to public-houses after walking in the parks, 3532, 3533——The parks are open from sunrise to sunset, 3533. 3543——Increased number of public-houses and beershops in Manchester of late years, 3534, 3535——It is the general desire that the museum and libraries should be opened on Sundays; it would have a good effect on the working classes, 3536-3542——General means of recreation resorted to by the people of Manchester on Sundays, 3544. 3557. 3584, 3585——Belief that the complaints are not well founded that the parks have had the effect of decreasing the number of persons attending Divine worship, 3546-3548——The general body of the working class at Manchester do not attend places of Divine worship on Sundays, 3549.

Extensive character of the Bellevue and Pomona Gardens; amusements provided for visitors, 3550, 3551——These gardens are open on Sundays, at a charge of 6*d.*, which is returned in refreshment; every description of liquor is sold, 3550-3552. 3594——Orderly character of the persons attending, 3553, 3554——Large number of persons resorting to the parks and public gardens near Manchester on Sundays, 3555-3557——General character of the music rooms at Manchester, which are open on Sundays, 3559-3561——The practice of singing psalms at the public-houses at Manchester was very properly put down by the police, 3562-3565——Reference to calculations as to the number of persons visiting public-houses on Sunday at certain periods, 3567-3570——Increased drunkenness and crime when the people are earning good wages, 3572-3574——Fearful extent to which prostitution is carried on at Manchester, 3573.

The general feeling is that the public-houses should be closed till after Divine service in the afternoon, 3575-3583. 3596——Majority of the people are in favour of keeping the houses open, 3586-3593——Objection to the public meeting on the subject, as having been got up by the religious classes, 3589——Closing public-houses till five o'clock on Sunday would cause but slight inconvenience to the working classes, and would have a beneficial effect, 3597-3601——Sunday evening drinking is not carried to excess at Manchester, 3602, 3603——Class of persons attending the Free Trade Hall concerts, 3604, 3605.

There are no concerts unconnected with the sale of liquors, 3606-3608——Character of the music saloons and terms of admission, 3606-3609——Belief that they would be well attended if no liquors were sold, 3610, 3611——Particulars with regard to a plan proposed by witness for establishing a cheap concert unconnected with the sale of liquors, 3612-3614——There are two theatres in Manchester which are much frequented by the common people, 3615——Circumstances of the magistrates refusing to license the Free Trade Hall for an amateur dramatic performance, under the management of Mr. Charles Dickens, for the benefit of the Guild of Literature and Art; reason for the refusal, 3616, 3617——Contested point as to the power of the magistrates to refuse a theatrical licence, 3618——Opinion that two or three theatres at Manchester, under proper management, would have a beneficial effect, 3618-3620——Class of performance most extensively patronised by the people, 3621-3623.

Suggestion for licensing dramatic performances in the music saloons subject to the surveillance of the police, 3624-3628——Particulars as to the granting of licences at Manchester; belief that favouritism is often shown by the magistrates, 3632-3639. 3651-3660——Suggestion that licences be granted by the Board of Inland Revenue, on application, under a proper system of inspection, 3641-3644——Necessity of appointing special inspectors of public-houses at a salary placing them above temptation, 3645-3650——Suggested prohibition of friendly societies from meeting in public-houses, 3657.

Rochdale. Belief that hush-shops, or unlicensed beerhouses, are general in Rochdale, *Clegg* 3688.

Rookery, St. Giles's. Witness made a survey of the Rookery (a street running behind New Oxford-street) in 1847-48, *Balfour* 1193——Class of persons in this district, *ib.* 1193-1200——Belief that half of them have brought themselves into their present degraded

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Rookery, St. Giles's—continued.

degraded state by drunkenness, *Balfour* 1201——No means are taken by the landlords in the district to remove known bad characters from their houses, *ib.* 1202-1205.

Rural Districts. Injurious effects of beerhouses being open on Sunday in rural districts, *Baylee* 233, 234——Difficulty of adopting an efficient system of inspection in the rural districts, *Neilson* 3237, 3238——Evil of public-houses and beershops in secluded places, *Rep. p.* xv.

S.

Saloons. See *Dancing Rooms. Theatres, &c.*

Saturdays. Advantage of public-houses being closed at ten o'clock on Saturday night, *Weylland* 181-184; *Haddock* 812, 813; *Bowthorpe* 896-904; *Powell* 987; *Wood* 1138, 1139——Excessive drinking on Saturday nights adverted to, *Maber* 349, 350——Large number of the working classes who are unable to resist the temptation of drinking to excess on Saturday evening, *Bowthorpe* 839, 840. 852-867——Custom of mechanics to adjourn to a public-house after the receipt of wages on Saturday night, *ib.* 852-860——Evils of public-houses being open till twelve o'clock on Saturday night, *Balfour* 4752, 4753——Circumstance of drunkenness occurring chiefly on Saturday nights, *Rep. p.* xvi.

Scotland. Reference to an Act lately passed for the better regulation of public-houses in Scotland, *Baylee* 266-270; *Rep. p.* xx——Slight opposition to the passing of the Act, *Baylee* 267-280——Plan adopted for preventing evasions of the law with regard to the sale of liquors on Sunday, *Card* 1962-1965——Circumstance of the sale of liquors being altogether prohibited on certain estates, and in thirty-six parishes in Scotland, with excellent results, *ib.* 1978, 1979——How far the restrictions as to recreation on Sunday tend to increase drunkenness, *ib.* 1980-1982.

Prevalence of excessive drinking in Scotland generally, *M'Callum* 4184-4189——Success of the total abstinence societies adverted to, *ib.* 4189——Favourable feeling of the people (including the spirit sellers) with respect to the prohibition of the sale of liquors on Sunday, *ib.* 4191-4194. 4201, 4202——The common people generally drink spirits, *ib.* 4197, 4198——Beneficial effects in Scotland of public-houses being closed on Sunday, *Lees* 4270, 4271.

See also *Edinburgh. Glasgow.*

Securities. See *Bond. Sureties.*

"*Shades,*" *Adelphi.* Immoral character of this house when in existence, *Balfour* 1270-1275. 1279.

Sheffield. Belief that the high rate of wages at Sheffield is the cause of the large amount of drunkenness there, as compared with Leeds, *James* 3313-3315.

Southwark. Hours during which witness, who is a publican in Southwark, closes his house on Sundays, *Speechly* 4031-4037——Low class of persons who are in the habit of attending the public-houses immediately after they open on Sunday morning; superior class who attend for refreshment in the evening, *ib.* 4138-4141. 4148-4153.

Speechly, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has for eleven years carried on the business of a licensed victualler in Southwark, 4128-4130——Hours during which witness closes his house on Sundays, 4031-4037——Low class of persons who are in the habit of attending public-houses immediately after they open on Sunday mornings; superior class who attend for refreshment in the evening, 4138-4141. 4148-4153——Belief that closing till five o'clock would have a beneficial effect, 4141, 4142. 4154-4156——Beer corked down in a stone bottle is equally good as when fresh drawn, 4143. 4146, 4147——Witness has always observed that excursionists are a sober and well-conducted class of people, 4149-4151——Many publicans would not object to keep their houses closed till five o'clock on Sunday, 4160, 4161——Closing so early as nine or ten o'clock would be inconvenient to the public, 4162, 4163.

Spirett, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Secretary to the Licensed Victuallers' Association in Leeds, 3403——Attends the Committee on behalf of the licensed victuallers of Leeds with reference to the Sunday closing question, 3404-3408——Objections to public-houses being closed on Sunday as interfering greatly with the interests of the publicans, 3409-3413. 3482——Inconvenience of such a measure to the public, 3412-3416. 3424-3426——Slight amount of drunkenness at Leeds on Sunday, 3417-3420. 3422, 3423——Respectable character of the licensed victuallers there, 3421——Large number of persons who resort to the public-houses on Sunday, 3424——Large attendance at a public meeting held in Cloth Hall Yard, on the subject of closing on Sunday; the mayor presided, 3428-3433. 3458-3460——After due discussion a resolution

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Spirett, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

tion was declared in favour of closing on Sunday; how far this resolution can be taken as the expression of public opinion on the subject, 3434-3457——Class of men who attended and addressed the meeting, 3453-3455. 3461-3463. 3472-3474——Great confusion occurred in taking the votes in consequence of the vast attendance, 3464-3471.

Proportion of licensed victuallers at Leeds who are members of the association, 3475, 3476——Belief that the publicans at Leeds are unanimously in favour of keeping their houses open on Sunday, 3480, 3481. 3493——From the manner in which signatures were obtained to the petition for closing on Sunday, it does not express the feeling of the general population of Leeds on the subject, 3482-3489——Great opposition would be made to the passing of a Bill prohibiting the sale of liquors on Sundays, 3490-3492——Witness is not aware of the beersellers having taken any part against the closing movement, 3494-3497——Expediency of places for rational amusement being open on Sundays, 3498-3500——Disapproval of the facility with which beer licences are obtained; they should be granted by the magistrates, 3501-3504.

Spirit Trade. See *Licences. Maraschino Act. Wholesale Dealers. Wines and Spirits.*

Stinton, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Chairman of the United Towns Licensed Victuallers' Association, 3695——Objects of the association, 3696-3699——Towns represented by witness, 3696. 3700——Publicans are strongly opposed to further legislation with regard to closing on Sunday, 3701-3705——Effect upon the trade of the present regulation for closing during certain hours, 3706-3708——Orderly character of the large number of persons who visited the Vauxhall Gardens, Birmingham, on Whit Sunday, 3709. 3718——Small number of persons taken into custody for drunkenness from twelve o'clock on Saturday night to eleven o'clock on Whit Monday, at Birmingham, Bristol, Hull, and other large towns, 3710-3715——Slight amount of drunkenness at Edinburgh on Whit Sunday, 3715-3717——Belief that closing public-houses entirely on Sunday would act injuriously on the habits of the working classes, 3718-3721. 3787-3790——The habit of making holiday on Monday is dying away, 3722-3724——Necessity of more strictly enforcing the law prohibiting the sale of liquors on Sunday morning; great extent to which the law is infringed, 3725. 3729-3736——Suggestion that the customers should be made equally liable with the landlord, 3725-3727——Slight amount of drunkenness on Sunday evenings, 3728.

A trifling extra remuneration to the police in cases of conviction would have the effect of checking the sale of liquors at illegal hours, 3731. 3736——Usefulness of some superintending power (to which the licensed victualler would not object) to prevent the illegal sale of liquors, 3733-3735——Ruinous effect on some proprietors of pleasure gardens of closing public-houses entirely on Sundays, 3737-3739. 3796——Growing inclination of the working classes to avail themselves of opportunities for rational recreation, 3740-3742——It is important that public-houses should be open after five o'clock on Sundays, 3743. 3747——Impossibility of keeping ale in bottle from Saturday till Sunday in good condition, 3744, 3745——Slight necessity for further legislation if the present law were strictly enforced with regard to closing on Sunday, 3748-3750——Evil effects of the Beer Act, 3753-3758——Eagerness of persons to become licensed victuallers or beersellers adverted to, 3759, 3760——Objections to beerhouse licences being granted by the Excise, 3761, 3762. 3829——All licences should be granted by the magistrates and should be entirely subject to their control, 3762. 3768, 3769. 3777-3786. 3798-3801. 3813, 3821. 3829. 3835-3855.

The small capital required has the effect of making the class of beer-sellers less respectable than the licensed victuallers, 3763——Importance of liquors being sold by a respectable class of persons, 3766——The majority of the publicans and beer-sellers at Birmingham brew their own beer, 3767——Practice in regard to granting licences at Birmingham; belief that favouritism is of very rare occurrence, and that general satisfaction is given by the magistrates, 3770. 3773-3776. 3782, 3783. 3802-3804. 3820. 3830-3833——Recommended reduction in the number of public-houses and beershops, 3770-3772. 3791-3793. 3806-3808——Number of beerhouses in Birmingham in 1853; 3778——Large proportion of public-houses and beerhouses in Birmingham as compared with other trades, 3794, 3795. 3797——Large amount of drunkenness in Liverpool as compared with Birmingham and Manchester, showing the evil of indiscriminate licensing, 3809, 3810——Extent to which gambling is carried on in the public-houses and beerhouses at Birmingham; manner in which this is attributable to the number of beerhouses, 3811, 3812.

Witness is not aware of any appeal having ever been made to the quarter sessions on the refusal of a licence, 3817-3819——Small number of licences granted by the Birmingham magistrates in proportion to the applications, 3820——Beneficial effect of a fine and reprimand in some cases, 3823, 3824——There can be no objection to the unrestricted sale of beer to be drunk off the premises, 3826——There are many beerhouses for the illegal

Stinton, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

illegal sale of liquors at Birmingham, 3827-3829——Houses are frequently rated higher than their value to qualify them for beerhouses, 3840——Present power of the magistrates with respect to the forfeiture of licences, 3848-3852——Difficulty and expense of bringing a case against a beerhouse-keeper before the Excise, 3852——Publicans and beershop-keepers should be placed on the same footing with regard to the forfeiture of their licences, 3853——Belief that granting the licence to the person instead of to the house would not be beneficial, 3856-3859.

Stone Masons. General habits of the workmen under witness as regards drinking; amount of wages paid them, *Wood* 1093-1097. 1102-1112. 1117-1119——Witness has been a teetotaller for eighteen years, *ib.* 1120, 1121.

Stone Potters. Large majority of the men working at the same pottery in Lambeth with witness who are in favour of public-houses being closed on Sunday; character of the objectors, *Bryon* 1011-1020. 1022-1026. 1035, 1036. 1068——Intemperate habits of many men at the pottery, *ib.* 1022, 1023. 1042-1044.

Sulphate of Iron. Sulphate of iron is sometimes used in beer for the purpose of giving it a head, *Hassall* 4336-4338; *M'Culloch* 4398, 4399.

Sunday Closing:

1. *Evidence in favour of Closing for the whole Day.*
2. *Objections urged thereto.*
3. *Propositions with respect to partial Closing.*
4. *Recommendations of the Committee.*

1. *Evidence in favour of Closing for the whole Day:*

Complaints made by the servants in public-houses as to the extra labour imposed upon them on Sundays, *Weylland* 66, 67——Many confirmed drunkards advocate closing public-houses on Sunday, *ib.* 192, 193——Demoralizing effect on the working classes of public-houses and beershops being open on Sunday; advantages anticipated from closing them, *Weylland* 201, 202; *Baylee* 214-218. 271: *Maber* 343-345; *Glass* 493-496; *Chamen* 618-620. 637-659; *Haddock* 710. 770-774; *Bryon* 1045, 1046. 1054, 1055. 1069; *Wood* 1087, 1088. 1091, 1092; *Card* 1809-1813. 1911-1917. 1958-1961. 1970; *Cunliffe* 2446-2448. 2490; *Balfour* 4762-4768. 4779. 4798——No material inconvenience would arise if the houses were closed altogether on Sunday, *Baylee* 235, 236; *Glass* 472-474. 476; *Chamen* 616. 666, 667; *Bowthorpe* 844, 845. 909-912; *Howarth* 2087-2091——Favourable feeling of the working classes generally towards the proposed measure for closing public-houses on Sunday, *Baylee* 249-252; *Maber* 341, 342; *Glass* 477-479; *Chamen* 660-663; *Haddock* 731. 818-824; *Bowthorpe* 838-843; *Hawes* 4715; *Rep. p.* xvii, xviii——The same restrictions should be imposed in England as in Scotland with regard to Sunday, *Baylee* 275. 280.

It would be to the interest of respectable publicans that their houses should be closed on Sunday, *Maber* 292-295. 309, 310. 322——Witness has not opened on Sundays for fourteen years, from conscientious feelings, *ib.* 296. 302, 303. 339, 340——Belief that closing on Sunday would raise the class of publicans, and would not occasion inconvenience to the community, *ib.* 299-301. 312-316. 359——Witness has not sustained any considerable loss by closing on Sunday, *ib.* 304-308. 321. 347——General acquiescence by the respectable class of publicans in the propriety of closing, *Maber* 309-311. 328; *Glass* 474. 480. 497. 514-516.

Witness, who is a publican in the Tottenham-court-road, has closed altogether on Sunday for the last seven years, from conscientious motives, *Chamen* 578-583. 697——Belief that he has not sustained any loss in consequence, *ib.* 584-586. 607-611——His house is independent of the brewer, *ib.* 595-597——It is the only house in the neighbourhood that is closed on Sundays, *ib.* 598——Feeling of the publicans in the neighbourhood on the subject, *ib.* 598-601——Better class of witness's customers in consequence of the closing, *ib.* 605.

Witness decidedly recommends closing for the whole day, *Chamen* 679; *Haddock* 710. 713; *Bowthorpe* 888-890. 912; *Powell* 923; *Wood* 1113-1115——Class of persons who would be likely to oppose the closing of public-houses on Sunday, *Haddock* 710; *Balfour* 1320-1322——Many publicans are in favour of closing altogether on Sunday, *Balfour* 1213; *Howarth* 2036-2038——National benefits anticipated from closing public-houses, &c. on Sundays and throwing open places of rational recreation, *Hutton* 1510-1513; *Balfour* 4775, 4776. 4816-4818——Opinion that a large majority of the working men of Manchester are in favour of closing on Sunday, *Howarth* 2029-2034——Witness is not aware of any opposition to the movement for closing them, *ib.* 2092-2095.

Edifying manner in which the people would occupy their time if public-houses were

Report, 1854—*continued.*

SUNDAY CLOSING—continued.

1. *Evidence in favour of Closing for the whole Day*—continued.

closed on Sunday, *Wright* 2244–2249——Provision should be made for the moral and spiritual instruction of the people at large on Sunday, *ib.* 2252——Evils of Sunday drinking among the working classes as regards work on Monday, *ib.* 2278, 2279——Notwithstanding the probability of the people resorting to places of amusement, &c., it is desirable that licensed houses should be closed, *Haughton* 2631–2633——Opinion that closing public-houses on Sunday would not be injurious to respectable publicans; the low class of houses would suffer most, *Hawes* 4658–4662.

2. *Objections urged thereto:*

Difficulties of entirely closing public-houses on Sundays, *Weylland* 40, 46–48——The majority of working men are against entire closing, *ib.* 47–49——Public-houses should not be entirely closed on Sunday, *Hutton* 1567, 1568; *Hawes* 4706, 4707. 4717——Entire closing on Sunday would be injurious to the proprietors and inconvenient to the public, *Jackson* 2689–2698. 2712–2715. 1719. 2768–2770——Probability of a greater amount of drinking taking place if public-houses were closed on Sunday than under the present system, *ib.* 2701–2712. 2763——Belief that closing beershops and public-houses on Sundays would not improve the morals of the working classes, and would be very injurious to the proprietors, *Hunter* 2783. 2790–2792. 2806. 2825–2831; *Stinton* 3701–3705. 3718–3721. 3787–3790.

Publicans generally are strongly opposed to further legislation with regard to closing on Sunday, *Stinton* 3701–3705——Slight necessity for further legislation if the present law were strictly enforced with regard to closing on Sunday, *Stinton* 3748–3750——Impossibility of carrying out a law for entire closing, *Homer* 3874. 3889——Great public inconvenience that would ensue if public-houses were closed entirely on Sunday, *ib.* 3889–3893. 3932–3934. 3938–3953——Different feelings of publicans on the subject, *ib.* 3940. 3951, 3952.

3. *Propositions with respect to partial Closing:*

It is the wish of some beershop-keepers that their houses should only be open for two hours in the middle of the day and two hours in the evening, *Weylland* 71–76——Some publicans would prefer their houses being opened at certain times of the day, *Maber* 324–327. 329, 330——No inconvenience would be felt if they were open from one to three o'clock, *Chamen* 621. 729; *Bryon* 1021——If the houses be not closed entirely they should only be open for two hours in the middle of the day, *Wood* 1113–1116. 1140–1142——They should be closed about ten o'clock at night, *Powell* 987——Limited time recommended for opening if entire closing be found impracticable, *Balfour* 1311. 1315–1318.

Recommendation that public-houses be opened later on Sunday mornings, *Card* 1959, 1960——No general resistance would be made if they were closed after three o'clock, *Howarth* 2035——If opened for an hour or two in the middle of the day there would be no inconvenience, *Wren* 2904. 2972–2976——Closing till five o'clock would cause but slight inconvenience to the working classes, and would have a beneficial effect, *Richardson* 3597–3601——It is important that public-houses should be open after five o'clock, *Stinton* 3743. 3747——The hours for closing in London on Sunday vary in different localities; greater uniformity is required, *Homer* 3943–3949——Belief that but slight objection would be raised by the trade to closing from three to six o'clock, *ib.* 3948.

Suggestion that public-houses be only open for an hour after Divine service in the morning and in the evening; benefits anticipated, *Thornburgh* 4079–4092. 4104–4119——Belief that the poorer classes would object to the houses being closed after five o'clock, *ib.* 4099–4103——Closing till five o'clock would have a beneficial effect, *Speechly* 4141, 4142. 4154–4156——Many publicans would not object to keep their houses closed till five o'clock, *ib.* 4160, 4161——Closing so early as nine or ten o'clock would be inconvenient to the public, *ib.* 4162, 4163——Advantage of closing at seven o'clock in the evening, *Hawes* 4664–4674——They might be open for two hours in the middle of the day and two hours in the evening, *ib.* 4669–4774.

4. *Recommendations of the Committee:*

Reference to proposals that public-houses and beershops shall be closed all day, *Rep. p.* xvii–xx——Reference to the testimony of working men to the advantage of closing for the whole day, *ib.* xviii——Opinion among publicans in favour of closing all day, *ib.* xix—— Reference to several publicans (witnesses before the Committee) who close on Sunday, *ib.* xix——Opinion of publicans in opposition to Sunday closing, *ib.* xix, xx——Suggestions of publicans and others as to further closing, considered, *ib.* xx, xxi.

Opinion of the Committee that no place for the sale of intoxicating drinks shall be open for more than four hours on the Sunday, *Rep. p.* xxi——Resolution, that with the exception

SUNDAY CLOSING—continued.

4. *Recommendations of the Committee*—continued.

exception of the hours of from one to two o'clock p.m., and of from six to nine p.m., all places for the sale of intoxicating drinks should be closed, *Rep. p.* xxvii.

See also *Act* 11 *&* 12 *Vict., c.* 49. *Birmingham*, 2. *Blyth* (*Northumberland*). *Bolton*, 2. *Bradford. Cab-drivers. Consumption. Drunkenness. Edinburgh. Evasions of the Law. Excursionists. Glasgow. Hackney. Home Consumption. Ireland. Islington. Leeds*, 2. *Lodgers. Luton, Bedfordshire. Manchester*, 2. *Mary-le-bone. Medical Purposes. Merthyr Tydvil*, 2. *Petitions. Public Meetings. Recreation Scotland. Sundays. Travellers. Wives of Working Men. Woolton, Lancashire.*

Sundays. Evidence as to the large amount of drunkenness which takes place on Sundays, more especially in the evening; probability of its being greater than on any other day in the week, *Weylland* 68–70; *Baylee* 219–227; *Powell* 985, 986; *Lees* 4267–4269; *Hawes* 4675–4679; *Balfour* 4754–4758. 4777–4783. *Rep. p.* xvi——Metropolitan Police Return delivered in, showing the number of persons taken into custody for drunkenness, distinguishing those taken on Sundays, for the years 1838 to 1844, *Baylee* 219–225——One-fourth of the entire number were taken into custody on Sundays, *ib.* 222——Houses that depend upon the Sunday trade are not of a very respectable class, *Maber* 317, 318.

Hours when public-houses are most frequented on Sunday, *Glass* 458–463——There is more excessive drinking on Sunday evening than at any other time except from six to twelve o'clock on Saturday evenings, *ib.* 464–467. 470, 471——Class of persons using public-houses on Sunday evenings, *ib.* 468, 469——Excessive drinking on Sunday generally takes place after ten o'clock, *Chamen* 680–684——Temptations of a public-house on Sunday evening, *Bowthorpe* 867, 868. 877——Belief that habits of drinking are mainly propagated by frequenting public-houses on Sunday evenings, *Bryon* 1059.

Small number of persons taken into custody for drunkenness from twelve o'clock on Saturday night to eleven o'clock on Whit Monday at Birmingham, Bristol, and other towns, *Stinton* 3710–3715——Slight amount of drunkenness on Sunday evenings, *ib.* 3728——Present amount of drunkenness on Sunday considered, *Homer* 3885–3888. 3895–3934.

See also *Drinking on Premises. Drunkenness. Evasions of the Law. Recreation. Sunday Closing.*

Supply. Many of the respectable class of publicans refuse to serve customers who are intoxicated, *Weylland* 29——There are many houses where liquors are served under any circumstances, *ib.* 30–32—— The landlords of public-houses do not generally interfere to prevent drunkenness, *Balfour* 1157, 1158.

Sureties. Persons applying for licences should find sureties for the proper conduct of their houses, *Weylland* 99. 100. 104, 105; *Hutton* 1503. 1549–1553; *M'Culloch* 4501; *Hawes* 4638——Sureties should give bond, and penalties should be stringently enforced against them, *Rep. p.* xii—— Resolution, that in case of any conviction for breach of the law or condition of the licence, the sureties should be at liberty to give notice of the withdrawal of their names as sureties at the next licensing sessions after the date of such notice, *ib.* xxvi.——*See* also *Bond.*

Suspension of Licence. Effect of the suspension of a licence, *Hutton* 1526–1528. 1541, 1542——Beneficial effect of suspending a licence in certain cases, *Homer* 4056–4059 ——Advantage of suspension over fine as a punishment, *Rep. p.* xiii.

T.

Tea Gardens. Objectionable character of the low tea gardens, &c., about London, at present resorted to, *Sir J. Paxton*, 3127–3129——Benefits resulting in part of Wales from the opening of tea gardens on Sundays, *Lees* 4295. 4296——The number of teetotallers among the working classes is increasing, *Bowthorpe* 891–894——Beneficial influence of temperance societies, *Bryon* 1032–1034——Effect of the teetotal movement in improving the character of the working classes, *Bryon* 1056–1058; *Hawes* 4725–4727.——*See* also *Maine Liquor Law. Temperance Festivals.*

Temperance Festivals. Number of persons who attended the Leeds temperance festival in each of the years 1850–54; charge for admission, and amount of profit to the society, *Balfour* 4788——Large number of persons who attended the temperance festival in the Zoological Gardens, Bristol, *ib.*——Orderly character of the large number of persons attending the temperance fête at the Surrey Zoological Gardens last year; no intoxicating drinks were allowed, *ib.* 4789–4793.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Temperance Houses. Manner in which temperance houses in London are conducted, *Weylland* 153, 154.——*See* also *Coffee Houses. Night Houses.*

Theatres, &c. Taste of the working people for theatrical representations adverted to, *Balfour* 1172–1176. 1436——Beneficial tendency of the cultivation of a taste for good theatrical amusements, *Balfour* 1436–1438; *Richardson* 3618–3620——Manner in which the frequenters of the theatre in Dean-street, Soho, are supplied with refreshments, *Caldwell* 1785–1790.

Contested point as to the power of the magistrates to refute a theatrical licence, *Richardson* 3618——Suggestions for licensing dramatic performances in the music saloons, subject to the surveillance of the police, *ib.* 3624–3628——Theatres of the same description as the Bower Saloon in other parts of London are well attended, *Balfour* 4748–4750.

Suggestions by Mr. Serjeant Adams for the control of theatrical saloons and places for music and dancing, *Rep. p.* xxv, xxvi.

Circumstance of theatres selling without licence adverted to, *Rep. p.* v——Unsatisfactory state of the law as to theatres and other places of entertainment in London, *ib.* xxiv——Penalties for performance without licence, *ib.*——Demoralizing performances without licence escape through defective definition of "stage-play," *ib.* xxv——Distinction between saloons and theatres in amount of bond given by managers, *ib.*

Resolution, that no theatrical or musical performance, pictorial, or other representation or exhibition, should be permitted without a licence, *Rep. p.* xxvii——Resolution, that it should be open to all persons to obtain such licence from the Lord Chamberlain, or other competent authority, on payment of a sum not exceeding 5 *l.* per annum, and on giving bond and sureties for the observance of the law and conditions of the licence, *ib.*

See also *Amateur Dramatic Performances. Bower Saloon, Lambeth. Eagle Tavern, City Road. Lord Chamberlain.*

Thornburgh, Rev. Francis. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Clergyman of the Temporary Church of St. Thomas, Kennington, 4077. 4078——Suggestion that public-houses be only opened on Sunday for an hour after Divine service in the morning and in the evening, 4092——Objection to liquors being drunk on the premises on Sunday, 4093–4096. 4115——Belief that the poorer classes would object to the public-houses being closed after five o'clock, 4099–4103——Large benefits anticipated from the proposed restriction of the period of opening on Sunday, 4104–4119——Number of working people in witness's district, 4111–4113——Crowded state of the gin-palaces and public-houses on Sunday evenings, 4114–4119——How far the public-houses being open may affect the attendance at church, 4120–4127.

Tower Hamlets. Exemption of the magistrates in the Tower Hamlets district from any charge of partiality and favouritism in the granting of licences; cases in illustration of their impartiality, *Homer* 2981——In 1853, out of seventy-five applications only thirteen or fourteen were granted, *ib.* 3994.

Trade, The. Strong objections to throwing open the trade, *Maber* 373–377. 396, 397. 409, 410. 416–425——The number of houses would be greatly increased, their character would be much worse, and altogether it would be a curse to London if the trade were thrown open, *ib.* 373 *et seq.*——Effect upon beershops of throwing open the spirit trade, *ib.* 385–394. 416——Great danger in throwing open the trade in liquors, *M'Callum* 4182.

Belief that the discontinuance of the licensing system would greatly increase the number of public-houses, but that ultimately the want would regulate the supply, *Hutton* 1463, 1464; *Hawes* 4549–4563. 4630–4635——Throwing open the spirit trade would in the course of time operate beneficially, and there would be less drunkenness, *Everett* 3050–3064——Advantages of the spirit trade being thrown open, *M'Culloch* 4490, 4491. 4493——Many beerhouses would obtain licences, *Hawes* 4564–4567——The increased number of public-houses consequent on the trade being thrown open would not materially increase drunkenness, under a proper system of supervision by the police, *ib.* 4630–4635.

See also *Monopoly.*

Transfer of Licences. Steps now taken to ascertain the respectability of any party to whom a licence is about to be transferred, *Maber* 433–436——Large number of licences transferred in Leeds in the course of a year, *James* 3333——The frequent transfer of houses is caused in a great measure by the large sums given for them, *Hawes* 4544. 4550–4552.

Travellers. Difficulty of making any distinction as regards travellers in the event of Sunday closing, *Baylee* 237–244; *Maber* 333, 334. 338; *Hawes* 4708–4714——Some exception should be made in their favour, *Chamen* 664, 665. 668–670. 694; *Haddock* 826, 827; *Everett* 3045; *Hawes* 4708——Suggestion as to the reception and refreshment of travellers on Sunday, *Cunliffe* 2491–2500——Belief that travellers would not seriously be inconvenienced by the adoption of the Maine law, *Haughton* 2666, 2667——Disapproval of entirely closing public-houses on Sunday as causing great inconvenience to travellers; difficulty of making a distinction in their favour, *Sir J. Paxton* 3160–3162——Suggested definition (by Mr. Fowler) of the term "traveller," *App. p.* 289.——*See* also *Excursionists.*

U.

United Kingdom Alliance, &c. Witness is treasurer of the United Kingdom Alliance for the total suppression of the traffic in all intoxicating liquors as beverages, *Card* 1793, 1794. 1974–1976——Steps taken for furthering the objects of the association by means of lectures, &c. *ib.* 1795 *et seq.*——Average attendance at the meetings; resolutions adopted, *ib.* 1798–1802——Numerous meetings at Bradford; amount collected for carrying out the objects of the association, *ib.* 1799. 1803–1806. 1901——The association has only been formed twelve months, *ib.* 1807.

Assent generally given to the propositions of the association for the entire suppression of all strong liquors, *Card* 1808–1811. 1821, 1822——Result of the labours of the association as regards the number of members, *ib.* 1814–1816——Prizes offered by the association for essays on the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, *ib.* 1817——Circumstance of several brewers being members of the association, *ib.* 1822, 1823. 1825——No pledge of total abstinence is required from members, *ib.* 1824——Resolutions passed at the inauguration meeting of the association held at Manchester; amount of subscriptions collected, and manner in which the money was applied, *ib.* 1889–1893.

United States. Manner in which Sunday is generally spent by the people in the United States, *Lees* 4284–4286——No places of recreation are provided, *ib.* 4287–4290.

See also *Maine Liquor Law.*

United Towns Licensed Victuallers' Association. Object of this association, *Stinton* 3696–3699——Towns represented by witness, *ib.* 3696–3700.

V.

Value of Public-house Property. The value of a house is greatly increased on obtaining a licence, *Hutton* 1496–1499. 1546, 1547; *Hawes* 4608–4610.

Value. *Data* on which the value of a public-house is determined, *Homer* 4047, 4048; *Hawes* 4543——Slight effect of the Beer Act on the value of public-house property, *ib.* 4582–4585.

Vested Interests. Great caution requisite in changing the system of licensing, so as to interfere as little as possible with vested interests, *Hawes* 4652–4657.

Victoria Park. This park has a very salutary effect on the working classes; vast numbers attending it on Sunday, *Glass* 483–490. 510–512. 576, 577——No liquors are sold in the park, *ib.* 491——Time of closing in summer, *ib.* 492.

Vintners' Company. Circumstance of free vintners claiming to sell without licence, *Rep. p.* v——Illegal practices of some free vintners adverted to, *ib.* vi.

W.

Wages. See *Payment of Wages.* *Sheffield.* *Working Classes.*

Wales. Regulations suggested by Mr. Fowler with regard to public-houses in Wales, *App. p.* 288, 289.——*See* also *Merthyr Tydvil.* *Tea Gardens.*

Wandsworth. Chairman of the Petty Sessions of the Wandsworth bench of magistrates, *Hutton* 1454–1458——Difficulty felt by the magistrates in granting licences, *ib.* 1459–1462——Impartial steps taken to ascertain the requirements of the neighbourhood and character of the persons applying for licences, *ib.* 1465–1467. 1484. 1532–1536. 1569, 1570——There is generally a bench of six or eight magistrates when licences are granted, *ib.* 1468. 1481, 1482——Belief that the bench are unanimous in the opinion that more efficient control should be vested in the police and magistrates as to the conduct of public-houses, *ib.* 1469, 1470. 1503——The bench suspend the licence of those houses that are reported by the police to have convictions against them, *ib.* 1471–1474. 1480. 1518.

The granting of licences is decided by vote, *Hutton* 1483——Magistrates having any interest in the licensing of a public-house do not sit, *ib.* 1485–1487——Applications are frequently made by interested parties against licences being granted, *ib.* 1488–1490——Slight effect of these applications on the bench, *ib.* 1491——Witness has always discouraged private applications by interested parties, *ib.* 1492–1495——Average number of suspensions on licensing day, *ib.* 1518–1520. 1541——Convictions against beershops do not come before the bench of magistrates, *ib.* 1524, 1525. 1537–1540——Frequent applications made by owners of houses for licences, *ib.* 1545–1548.

Week-days. See *Early Closing.* *Saturdays.*

Weylland, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is a London City Missionary, acting under the committee of the London City Mission, 1-3——Opportunities of witness for observing the conduct of persons in public-houses, 5-7——Crowded state of the public-houses and beershops in Marylebone from seven to twelve o'clock on Sunday evenings, 8-19——Manner in which witness endeavours to further the object of his mission, 20-22——Class of persons attending the public-houses on Sundays, 22-26. 35——Many of the respectable class of publicans refuse to serve customers who are intoxicated, 29——There are many houses where liquors are served under any circumstances, 30-32——Length of time witness has filled his present capacity, 33——Extent to which he has been successful in his mission, 34——Result of canvassing for the signatures of 125 publicans to a petition for closing public-houses and beershops on Sundays, 36-45.

Difficulties of entirely closing public-houses on Sunday, 40. 46-48—The majority of working men are against such a measure, 47-49——Opinion that opening places for rational recreation would have but a slight effect on the numbers attending public-houses on Sundays, 50-52, 58, 59, 63-65——Evils of such a system, as compelling a certain number of persons to work on the Sunday, 52-55. 59, 60——Difficulty of attempting to reform persons who are in the habit of resorting to public-houses, 56, 57——Large proportion of the wives of working men in favour of public-houses being closed on Sunday, 61, 62——Complaints made by the servants employed in public-houses, 66, 67——In many public-houses more business is done on Sunday than on any other day in the week, 68-70——It is the wish of some beershop-keepers that their houses should only be open for two hours in the middle of the day and two hours in the evening, 71-76——It would be advisable that liquors sold on Sunday should not be drunk on the premises, 76-81. 141-149.

Greater amount of drunkenness and bad conduct generally in a certain class of beershops than in licensed houses, 82-94. 101-105——It is no part of witness's duty to act as informer or to make known to the police anything that comes to his knowledge of an improper character, 94, 95——Suggestion that licences should only be granted to men of good character, 97, 98. 151. 155, 156——Approval of a suggestion that a person applying for a licence should find two sureties for the proper conduct of the house, 99, 100. 104, 105——Many beershops sell spirits on Sunday morning, 101-103. 110-113——Licensed victuallers seldom serve customers on Sunday morning, from fear of losing their licences, 103-125.

Large number of houses generally in which spirits are illegally sold on Sunday, 110-116——Sufficiency of the profits to afford the risk of fines, 113, 114——Active measures which have been adopted for the suppression of the illegal sale of spirits, 116-118——Great extent to which the sale of spirits is carried on in unlicensed houses, 116. 119——Particulars as to the class of people who support coffee-shops which are open all night, 120-122. 124-126. 136. 209——Information obtained from destitute women who have been placed by the City Missionary Society in asylums, 123——Necessity of some houses for refreshment being open all night, 124-129. 136. 140. 175. 209——Reference to a nightly refuge for destitute persons in Marylebone, 130-132——Improper manner in which many of the night coffee-houses are conducted, 133-135——Suggested superintendence of the night coffee-houses, 137-139——Power of the police to enter notoriously bad houses, 150-152——Manner in which temperance houses are conducted, 153, 154.

Great importance of publicans being a more respectable class of men, 155-163——Expediency of some board having power to remove altogether badly conducted beershops, 164, 165. 185——Impossibility of the numerous beershops getting a living in a legitimate manner, 165, 166——Difficulty in the administration of the law, 167, 168——Persons found in a public-house on Sunday morning should be fined as well as the landlord, 169-173——Places of public amusement should be closed earlier throughout the week, 174——No licensed house should be open all night, *ib.*——Belief that respectable publicans would not object to the proposed restraint, 176——Large number of persons habitually attending public-houses, 177——How far the efforts of the society have been successful in reclaiming drunkards, 178-180——Evil effects of public-houses keeping open after ten o'clock on Saturday nights, 181-184——Importance of the pay-tables of manufacturers being removed from public-houses, 186-189.

If public-houses were closed earlier, there would be a diminution of drunkenness, 190-192——Many confirmed drunkards themselves advocate closing public-houses on Sunday, 192, 193——Evils of the gin-palace system, 194, 195——Greater attraction of the gin-palace than of the respectable licensed victualler's house, 196——Character and result of witness's visits to the gin-palaces, 197-200——The closing of public-houses on Sunday evening would greatly tend to diminish drunkenness and immorality, 201, 202——How far it would be to the benefit of working men that they should receive their wages on Friday, 203-206——Influence of witness over the drunkards in his district; anticipated good results, 207, 208.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Wholesale Dealers. Witness has carried on the business of a publican and wholesale wine and spirit merchant in London for upwards of 20 years, *Homer* 3860–3863. 3990——Particulars as to the retail plan adopted by witness in his business at Hackney, *ib.* 3895–3905. 3924. 3927–3930——Reference made in an almanack published by witness to the Excise laws prohibiting a wholesale dealer from selling less than two gallons of spirits, *ib.* 3906–3914——Approval of this prohibition, *ib.* 3915–3925——The plan adopted by witness has given general satisfaction, and has removed one of the principal arguments in favour of the Maraschino Bill, *ib.* 3920. 3926. 3931——Large amount paid by witness for licences, *ib.* 3924.

Reference to the restrictions upon wholesale dealers in regard to the sale of spirits and beer, *Rep. p.* iii——Circumstances of wholesale dealers selling by retail, *ib.* vi——Inconvenience of the restrictions as to wholesale dealers, *ib.* vi, vii——Hardship of the restrictions admitted by magistrates and the Excise, *ib.* vi——The restriction on wholesale dealers is injurious to retailers, *ib.* vii.——*See* also *Fearon, Messrs.* *Maraschino Act.*

Wines and Spirits. Decreasing disposition of the working classes for spirits of late years, *Chamen* 627–630——Increased sale of wine of late years among the better class of people, *ib.* 631–636——Suggestion that a licence for wines and spirits should be more easily obtainable, subject to qualifications as to character and rental, and that such licences be granted by the Excise, *Hunter* 2837–2843. 2853.

Present rate of duty upon wine and spirit licenses, *Rep. p.* iii——Provisions of the Act that a retail spirit licence shall not be granted without a beer licence, *ib.* iv.

See also *Gin.* *Grocers.* *Licences.* *Maraschino Act.* *Profit.* *Vintners' Company.* *Withdrawal of Licences.*

Wire, Mr. Alderman. Reference to the objections of Mr. Alderman Wire to the abolition of the distinction between beershops and public-houses, *Rep. p.* xi.

Withdrawal of Licence. The licence should be withdrawn more readily on the occurrence of offences, *Maber* 406–408; *Hawes* 4592. 4599, 4600——Rule adopted in Surrey with regard to the withdrawal of licences, *Hutton* 1521–1523. 1529–1531——Publicans in Ireland, if convicted three times by district magistrates, are liable to be deprived of their licence, *Houghton* 2602–2604——Publicans and beershop-keepers should be placed on the same footing with regard to the forfeiture of their licences, *Stinton* 3853——The fear of losing the licence is a greater check on misconduct than an increased sum being paid for it, *Hawes* 4592–4598.

Occasional non-withdrawal of licences, though expedient, adverted to, *Rep. p.* ix——Publicans who have forfeited their licences open beershops, *ib.* xi.

Wives of Working Men. Large proportion of the wives of working men in favour of public-houses being closed on Sunday, *Weylland* 61, 62——Bad treatment of wives, consequent on public-houses being kept open so late, *ib.* 181.

Wood, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Stone mason, residing in the Blackfriar's-road, Lambeth, 1084–1806——Immense moral advantage of public-houses being closed on Sunday, 1087, 1088. 1091, 1092——Improvement in the working classes since public-houses have been closed on Sunday morning, 1089, 1090——General habits of the workmen under witness; amount of wages paid them, 1093–1097. 1102–1112. 1117–1119——Approval of the system of paying workmen on Friday, 1098–1101——Witness recommends closing altogether on Sunday; otherwise they should be open only for two hours in the middle of the day, 1113–1116. 1140–1142——Witness has been a teetotaller for eighteen years, 1120, 1121——Laxity of Irish Roman-catholic labourers with regard to the Sabbath adverted to; general habits of this class, 1122–1126——Influence of friendly associations, established of late years, in checking drunkenness, 1127–1131——Opportunities of the working classes to indulge in drink on Saturday and Sunday nights, 1135–1137——On Saturday night the closing should take place at ten o'clock, 1138, 1139.

Woolton (*Lancashire*). Decreased amount of drunkenness among the lower classes in the district midway between Woolton and Prescot during the last twelve years; cause to which attributable, *Neilson* 3167–3173——Slight opportunities for amusement in this district, *ib.* 3174——Plan adopted for ascertaining the requirements of the neighbourhood when applications are made for new licences, *ib.* 3201——The inhabitants are generally favourable to closing public-houses on Sunday, *ib.* 3216–3218——The publicans are unfavourable to the measure, *ib.* 3219——Evidence is furnished on licensing day of the previous convictions against public-houses and beerhouses, *ib.* 3226——Manner in which the forfeiture of beershop licences is evaded, *ib.* 3227–3229.

Working Classes. Growing improvement in the habits of the working classes; causes to which attributable, *Bowthorpe* 871–876. 895——Opportunities of the working classes to indulge in drink on Saturday and Sunday nights, *Wood* 1135–1137——Great extent to which public-houses are habitually frequented on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday evenings by the working classes, *Balfour* 1146–1149. 1153——Improvement generally of late

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Working Classes—continued.

years in the taste and habits of the people, *Balfour* 1177; *Hawes* 4700–4703——The use of intoxicating drinks is the great obstacle to the improvement of the working man, *Everett* 2022; *Cunliffe* 2302. 2434–2436——Various movements for the benefit of the working classes in which witness has interested himself for the last twenty years, *Cunliffe* 2298–2305——The increased rate of wages has had a most favourable effect in improving the condition of the lower classes, *Hawes* 4728, 4729——Readiness of the working classes to avail themselves of the means of improvement, *Rep. p.* xxii.

See also *Cab-Drivers. Holidays. Maine Liquor Law. Petitions. Public Meetings. Recreations. Stone Masons. Stone Potters. Sunday Closing. Wives of Working Men.*

Wren, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Superintendent of the county constabulary at Merthyr Tydvil, 2858, 2859——Favourable feeling of the people at Merthyr Tydvil with regard to closing public-houses on Sunday, 2861–2863. 2883——Large amount of drinking on Saturday nights and Sunday, 2864–2867. 2884. 2981——Average number of persons in each beerhouse and public-house from eight till eleven o'clock on Sunday evening; total number, 2868–2872. 2900——The population of Merthyr Tydvil and the surrounding district is nearly 100,000; 2873——All the publicans and beershop-keepers (with one exception) signed a petition for closing the houses on Sundays, 2874–2881——Rioting has much decreased on Sundays of late years, 2885——Number of licensed victuallers and beerhouse-keepers at Merthyr Tydvil convicted last year, chiefly for selling on Sunday morning, 2887–2889. 2909–2911——The convictions are reported on licensing day by witness; the licences are taken away after several convictions, 2890–2894. 2954–2957——Effect of a suspension of a licence, 2895, 2896——Penalties imposed for breaches of the law, 2897–2899——Hours of closing public houses and beershops on Sundays at Merthyr Tydvil, 2901, 2902.

Belief that if the houses were closed on Sunday persons would supply themselves with beer on Saturday for Sunday's consumption, 2903–2905——If opened for an hour or two in the middle of the day there would be no inconvenience, 2904. 2972–2976——The working men seldom have beer in their own homes, 2906, 2907. 2925——High rate of wages at Merthyr Tydvil, 2908——Evil effects of the low class of beerhouses, 2909–2915——A large proportion of the beerhouses at Merthyr Tydvil are not of the value required by law; belief that this is more the result of carelessness than collusion, 2916–2924——Evils of the agents at Merthyr Tydvil keeping beershops, 2926, 2927——Recommendation that beerhouses be licensed upon the same system as public-houses, and that there be the same active control over each, 2928–2930. 2940–2944. 2948, 2949. 2957–2960. 2991–2995——The check upon the publicans and beer-sellers is the fear of being informed against by the police; inducements held out to the latter to forego informations, 2931. 2952–2954——Circumstances under which the police are empowered to enter houses of public entertainment, 2932–2937.

Practice with regard to laying informations, 2938, 2939——Beerhouse-keepers are required to have two sureties, 2950, 2951——Necessity of high character in inspectors of public-houses, with a salary placing them above temptation, 2955, 2956——All licences should be granted by the magistrates, 2958–2960. 2992–2994——General character of offences charged against the beerhouses at Merthyr Tydvil, 2961–2963——Attractions of the beerhouses; slight extent to which they are used for immoral purposes, 2964, 2965——The police are frequently called in to clear the houses, 2966, 2967——Many of the public-houses belong to brewers; interference by them to prevent houses losing their licences, 2968–2971——Large number of public-houses and beershops in proportion to the population of Merthyr Tydvil, 2978–2984——General character of the working men, 2982——Great want of rational amusements, 2985–2990——Large number of persons attending the playground and reading-rooms established by Lady Guest; beneficial effects thereof, 2988, 2989.

Wright, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been engaged for the last sixteen years in making enquiries respecting the influence of drunkenness upon criminals, 2103, 2104——Admission of prisoners in gaols that drunkenness (principally on Saturday nights and Sunday) has been the cause of their crimes, 2016–2112. 2152–2154——Evils of the low beerhouses; low class of persons frequenting them, 2113–2115——Classification of persons indulging in intoxicating drinks, 2116–2120——Large number of the lowest class of persons in Manchester, 2121——Large number of persons who become criminals through parental neglect or drunkenness, 2121–2143. 2146–2151——Impossibility of reforming juvenile offenders unless they are removed from their parents, 2138–2140——The passion for drink is stronger in the lower class of women than in the men, 2142. 2144, 2145——Great number of juvenile prostitutes in the large towns whose mothers are drunkards, 2146–2149.

Large proportion of reformed criminals who have given up intoxicating liquors, 2155–2160. 2167–2169——Obstacles to returned convicts obtaining employment, 2161–2163.

Report, 1854—*continued.*

Wright, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

2165——Reformed character of six persons (who had been in prison) sent by witness to the institution in South-street, Westminster, 2163, 2164——Existence of crime generally attributed to habits of intemperance, 2169–2181——Admissions by paupers that intemperate habits have brought them to their condition, 2176–2181——Rapid increase of drunkenness in Manchester calculated from the greater number of prisoners of late years; examination as to such number, 2189–2227——Reason assigned for the increased drunkenness in Manchester, 2213-2216. 2225-2227——Increased number of public-houses, spirit vaults, and beerhouses in Manchester during the last year, 2220–2223.

Laxity of the police with regard to cases of drunkenness, 2228, 2229——Belief that closing all public-houses and beershops from seven o'clock on Saturday evening till nine on Monday morning would tend greatly to decrease the criminal population, 2229——The music rooms in Manchester have public-house licences; character of these places, 2230–2235——Disapproval of the recreation of public dancing, though intoxicating liquors may not be sold, 2236–2249——Belief that young persons are driven to those places by the uncomfortableness of their homes, 2241–2243——Manner in which the people would occupy their time were public-houses closed on Sunday, 2244–2249——Objections to the parks being open for recreation on Sundays while public-houses also remain open, 2250, 2251. 2256–2264. 2275, 2276. 2280–2285——Provision should be made for the moral and spiritual instruction of the people at large on Sunday, 2252——Importance of improvement in the dwellings of the lower orders, 2253–2255.

The working classes in Manchester have sufficient leisure for recreation, without encroaching on the Sabbath, 2267——Large number of persons making excursions from Manchester into the adjacent country on Sunday; conduct of these people, 2268–2274——Evils of Sunday drinking among the working classes as regards work on Monday, 2278, 2279——Large number of the lower classes frequenting the parks at Manchester on Sunday; belief that they are in the habit of frequenting public-houses afterwards, 2280–2285. 2296, 2297——The class of persons attending Divine service do not also attend public-houses, 2287-2289——How far the large number of Irish domiciled in Manchester might oppose the recommended closing on Sunday, 2291–2294.

Z.

Zoological Gardens, Dublin. These gardens are open to the public after Divine service on Sunday, at a trifling charge, with a view to decrease the number frequenting the public-houses; great extent to which the lower classes avail themselves of this recreation, *Haughton* 2511–2521. 2524–2527——Statements showing the number of persons visiting the gardens, distinguishing those paying 1 *d.*, and those admitted free, in the years 1841–1854, *ib.* 2527–2532——Extract from the annual report of the Council of the Zoological Society, as to the decorous conduct of the poor persons visiting the gardens, *ib.* 2532——Letter from the Secretary of the Dublin Mechanics' Institution to the Secretary of the Zoological Society, condemnatory of the plan adopted of admitting the public at a small charge on Sunday, *ib.* 2533——No intoxicating liquors are sold at the Zoological Gardens, Dublin, *ib.* 2533.

Good effects of opening the gardens on Sunday adverted to, *Rep. p.* xxi, xxii——Appreciation of the advantage by members of the Mechanics' Institute, *ib.* xxii.

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